

1                   UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2                   MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE  
3                   NASHVILLE DIVISION

4                   UNITED STATES OF AMERICA           )  
5                   VS                                   )                   No. 3:22-cr-327  
6                   CHESTER GALLAGHER [1]           )  
7                   HEATHER IDONI [2]               )  
8                   CALVIN ZASTROW [3]              )  
9                   COLEMAN BOYD [4]                )  
10                  PAUL VAUGHN [6]                 )  
11                  DENNIS GREEN [7]                 )  
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13                  BEFORE THE HONORABLE ALETA A. TRAUGER, DISTRICT JUDGE

14                  TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

15                  January 24, 2024

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**E X H I B I T S**

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2 The above-styled cause came to be heard on  
3 January 24, 2024, before the Hon. Aleta A. Trauger,  
4 District Judge, when the following proceedings were had  
5 at 2:45 p.m., to-wit:

6

(A jury of 12 people and 4 alternates was previously selected and sworn.)

9

10 THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to give my  
11 preliminary jury instructions while those people are  
12 taking the elevators down. And by the time I finish  
13 that -- it only takes about ten minutes -- then we will  
14 allow the people from the other courtroom and whatever  
15 other spectators we had to shoo out of the courtroom,  
16 we'll allow them to come in as well. So I'm going to do  
17 instructions and then we'll allow other people to come  
18 in.

19

20 some initial instructions about this case and about your  
21 duties as jurors. At the end of the trial I shall give  
22 you further instructions. I may also give you  
23 instructions during the trial. Unless I specifically  
24 tell you otherwise, all of these instructions are equally  
25 binding on you and must be followed.

1                   It will be your duty to decide from the  
2 evidence whether each defendant is guilty or not guilty  
3 of the crimes charged. From the evidence you will decide  
4 what the facts are. You are entitled to consider that  
5 evidence in the light of your own observations and  
6 experiences in the affairs of life.

7                   You may use reason and common sense to draw  
8 deductions or conclusions from facts which have been  
9 established by the evidence. You will then apply those  
10 facts to the law, which I give you in my instructions so  
11 that you may reach a verdict. You are the sole judges of  
12 the facts, but you must follow the law as stated in my  
13 instructions whether you agree with it or not.

14                  Do not let sympathy or prejudice influence  
15 you. The law demands of you a just verdict unaffected by  
16 anything except the evidence, your common sense and the  
17 law as I give it to you. You should not take anything I  
18 may say or do during the trial as indicating what I think  
19 of the evidence or what I think your verdict should be.

20                  The evidence from which you will find the  
21 facts includes the testimony of witnesses, documents and  
22 other things received as exhibits, any facts that are  
23 stipulated to, that is, agreed to by the parties, and any  
24 fact I say you may accept as true even without evidence.

25                  Certain things are not evidence and must not

1 be considered by you. Statements, arguments, questions  
2 and comments by lawyers representing the parties in the  
3 case are not evidence. Objections are not evidence.  
4 Lawyers have a right to object when they believe  
5 something is improper. You should not be influenced by  
6 the objection. If I sustain an objection to a question,  
7 you must ignore the question and must not try to guess  
8 what the answer might have been.

9                   Testimony that I strike from the record and  
10 tell you to disregard is not evidence and must not be  
11 considered. Anything you see or hear about this case  
12 outside the courtroom is not evidence. You are to decide  
13 the case based solely on the evidence received and  
14 presented to you here in the courtroom.

15                   Sometimes evidence is received for a limited  
16 purpose only. That is, it can be used for one particular  
17 purpose but not for any other purpose. I will tell you  
18 when that occurs and instruct you on the purposes for  
19 which an item can and cannot be used.

20                   There are two kinds of evidence: Direct and  
21 circumstantial evidence. Direct evidence is direct proof  
22 of a fact, such as testimony of an eyewitness.  
23 Circumstantial evidence is proof of facts from which you  
24 may conclude that other facts exist. I'm going to give  
25 you further instructions on this at the end, but let me

1 just say, direct evidence would be if somebody came in  
2 and said it's raining outside and you believed them, that  
3 would be direct evidence. If someone came in with a wet  
4 raincoat and a wet umbrella, you could presume from that  
5 evidence, circumstantial evidence, that it was raining  
6 outside. The law doesn't make any distinction between  
7 direct and circumstantial evidence. They're both as good  
8 as each other.

9                   It will be up to you to decide which  
10 witnesses to believe, which witnesses not to believe and  
11 how much of any witness's testimony to accept or reject.  
12 I will give you further instructions on determining the  
13 credibility of witnesses at the end of the case.

14                   As you know, this is a criminal case. There  
15 are some basic rules about a criminal case that you must  
16 keep in mind. First, the defendants are presumed  
17 innocent until proven guilty. The indictment against  
18 them brought by the government is only an accusation,  
19 nothing more. It is not proof of guilt or anything else.  
20 The defendants, therefore, start out with a clean slate.

21                   Second, the burden of proof is on the  
22 government until the very end of the case. The  
23 defendants have no burden to prove their innocence or to  
24 present any evidence or to testify. Since a defendant  
25 has the right to remain silent, the law prohibits you

1 from arriving at your verdict by considering that a  
2 defendant may not have testified.

3                   Third, the government must prove the  
4 defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. I will give  
5 you further instructions on this point later, but bear in  
6 mind that in this respect a criminal case is different  
7 from a civil case where I mentioned the proof is by a  
8 preponderance of the evidence, which is a lesser  
9 standard.

10                  Fourth, the defendants have been charged  
11 with the same two crimes. The number of charges is no  
12 evidence of guilt and this should not influence your  
13 decision in any way. In our system of justice, guilt or  
14 innocence is personal and individual. It is your duty to  
15 separately consider the evidence against each of the  
16 defendants on each of the two charges and to return a  
17 separate verdict as to each one of them.

18                  For each one you must decide whether the  
19 government has presented proof beyond a reasonable doubt  
20 that that particular defendant is guilty of a particular  
21 charge. Your decision on any one defendant or on any one  
22 charge, whether it is guilty or not guilty, should not  
23 influence your decision on another defendant or on any  
24 other charge.

25                  Now a few words about your conduct as

1       jurors. First, do not discuss the case either among  
2       yourselves or with anyone else during the course of the  
3       trial and do not permit anyone to discuss it with you.  
4       Until you retire to the jury room at the end of the case  
5       to deliberate on your verdict, you simply are not to talk  
6       about the case at all. In fairness to both sides, you  
7       should keep an open mind throughout the trial, reaching  
8       your conclusions only during your final deliberations  
9       after all the evidence is in and you have heard the  
10      closing arguments and my instructions to you on the law.

11                   So you can talk about anything, your  
12      families, what you did last night, what series you're  
13      watching on television, but don't talk about the case  
14      amongst yourselves or with anyone else.

15                   Many of you use cell phones, BlackBerrys --  
16      BlackBerrys, we don't use BlackBerrys anymore, I need to  
17      cross that out -- the internet and other tools of  
18      technology. You must not use these tools to communicate  
19      electronically with anyone about the case. This includes  
20      your family and friends.

21                   Until the verdict is in, you may not  
22      communicate with anyone about the case on your cell phone  
23      through email, iPhone, text messaging, Twitter, blogs,  
24      websites, Internet chat rooms, social networking  
25      websites, anything, LinkedIn, YouTube, all of those

1 things.

2                   Second, do not read or listen to anything  
3 related to this case in any way. Ignore any news  
4 coverage that you may see on your phone or on the radio  
5 or on the television set. Turn it off the minute it  
6 comes on if anything with this case is reported. You  
7 must decide this case solely on the evidence presented  
8 here in court and the law as I instruct you at the end of  
9 the case.

10                  Third, wear your juror badge at all times.  
11 You don't need to wear those numbers anymore, but wear  
12 your round juror badge at all times visibly and do not  
13 permit any person to discuss this case in your presence.  
14 If anyone should try to talk to you about it, bring that  
15 to the Court's attention promptly in writing through the  
16 court security officer without discussing it with your  
17 fellow jurors.

18                  Fourth, though it is a normal human tendency  
19 to converse with people with whom one is thrown in  
20 contact, please do not, during the time you serve on this  
21 jury, talk in or out of the courtroom with any of the  
22 defendants or their lawyers, the prosecutors, any witness  
23 or the news media. By this, not only do not talk about  
24 the case, but do not talk with them at all about  
25 anything, even to pass the time of day. In no other way

1 can everyone be assured of the absolute impartiality  
2 they're entitled to expect from you as jurors.

3                   Fifth, while you sit as a juror in this  
4 case, you are not to conduct any research or make any  
5 investigations on your own about the case. That's not  
6 your job. Your job is to decide the case based solely  
7 upon the evidence presented to all of you here in the  
8 courtroom.

9                   You should not review or seek out  
10 information about the issues, the parties, the lawyers,  
11 the witnesses, either in traditional formats such as  
12 newspapers, books, televisions, radio, newspapers, or  
13 through the Internet or any other computer research. You  
14 should not go on the Internet or participate in or review  
15 any websites, Internet chat rooms or blogs, nor should  
16 you seek out information of any kind that in any way  
17 relates to this case.

18                   Why do we impose this restriction? Because  
19 you are here to decide this case based solely on the  
20 evidence or lack of evidence presented in the courtroom.  
21 Many of you regularly use the Internet to do research or  
22 to examine matters of interest to you. The information  
23 you're accessing is not evidence in this case. What you  
24 are examining may be wrong, incomplete, inaccurate or  
25 outdated.

1                   As a juror you must not be influenced by any  
2 information outside the courtroom. The Rules of Evidence  
3 and Criminal Procedure determine what is and is not  
4 evidence to be properly considered by you. What you are  
5 witnessing on the Internet has not been through the  
6 filters of the Rules of Evidence and Criminal Procedure.  
7 To base your verdict on anything else would unfairly and  
8 adversely impact the judicial process.

9                   Sixth, do not make up your mind about what  
10 the verdict should be until after you've gone to the jury  
11 room to decide the case and you and your fellow jurors  
12 have discussed the evidence. Keep an open mind until  
13 then.

14                   During the trial I will permit you to take  
15 notes, and we will be passing out notebooks and pens to  
16 you. Many courts do not permit note taking by jurors and  
17 a word of caution is in order. There's always a tendency  
18 to attach undue importance to matters that one has  
19 written down. Some testimony, which is considered  
20 unimportant at the time presented and, thus, not written  
21 down, may take on greater importance later in the trial in  
22 light of other evidence presented.

23                   Therefore, I'm instructing you that your  
24 notes are only a tool to aid your own individual memory  
25 and you should not compare your notes with other jurors

1 in determining the content of testimony or in evaluating  
2 the importance of any evidence. Your notes are not  
3 evidence and are by no means a complete outline of the  
4 proceedings or a list of the highlights of the trial.

5                   Above all, your memory should be your  
6 greatest asset when it comes time to deliberate and  
7 render a decision in this case. Your notes are to be  
8 left at your seats during recesses and overnight and are  
9 not to leave the courthouse at any time.

10                  The trial will proceed in the following  
11 manner. First, the government lawyers will make an  
12 opening statement, which is simply an outline to help you  
13 understand the evidence as it comes in. Then the defense  
14 attorneys may but don't have to make opening statements.  
15 Opening statements are neither evidence nor arguments.

16                  The government will then present its  
17 witnesses and counsel for the defendants may  
18 cross-examine them. Following the government's case, the  
19 defendants may, if they wish, present witnesses whom the  
20 government may cross-examine. After all the evidence is  
21 in, the lawyers will present their closing arguments to  
22 summarize and interpret the evidence for you. Then I  
23 will instruct you on the law. After that you will retire  
24 to deliberate on your verdict.

25                  So we are ready for opening statements. At

1 this point we will allow any spectators who wish to come  
2 into the courtroom for opening statement and any other  
3 observers.

4 (Pause in proceedings.)

5 THE COURT: Thank you. I'm going to read  
6 this notice too, which I don't think has yet been  
7 published. You are welcome in this courtroom for the  
8 trial of this case. When you are in the courtroom, you  
9 cannot express in any way approval or disapproval of the  
10 testimony. Behavior that you cannot engage in includes  
11 but is not limited to nodding or shaking your head,  
12 making facial expressions or hand gestures or speaking  
13 out. If you do so, you will be removed from the  
14 courtroom.

15 You may not use cell phones in any way while  
16 in the courtroom. You cannot record the proceedings on  
17 your cell phone or any other recording device. If court  
18 security officers see your cell phone out, you will be  
19 asked to leave for the day.

20 Also, electronic devices may not be used for  
21 photography, video or audio broadcasting or video or  
22 audio recording on the floors of the courthouse occupied  
23 by the court. Please conform your behavior to these  
24 expectations. And I will just warn you that I suspect  
25 the government will be monitoring things. So if anybody

1 starts transmitting videos from the courthouse, we'll  
2 probably know about it. Okay? We want to have an  
3 orderly procedure.

4 We're now going to have opening statements.

5 The government begins. Ms. Klopf.

6 MS. KLOPF: Thank you, Your Honor.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: May I please just for  
8 a moment raise the human flag because lives are at stake  
9 here. I have firsthand --

10 THE COURT: Sir, you may leave the courtroom  
11 if you cannot be quiet. Sit down and be quiet or you  
12 must leave the courtroom.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The Lord led me to  
14 pray --

15 THE COURT: Take him out of the courtroom,  
16 please.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The Lord led me to  
18 pray for COVID. I have already given to the Court on the  
19 file the record. You need to consider what God's word  
20 says.

21 (Person removed from the courtroom.)

22 THE COURT: Ms. Klopf, go ahead.

23 GOVERNMENT OPENING STATEMENT

24 MS. KLOPF: On March 15, 2021, these six  
25 defendants and many others acted together to block the

1 doors of the healthcare clinic in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee.  
2 They did it because this clinic provided reproductive  
3 health care, and they wanted to stop as many patients as  
4 possible from accessing the clinic that day.

5 The blockade ended the only way it was going  
6 to, with arrests. And in their own words, you'll hear  
7 one of the defendants explain what this was not. It was  
8 not a protest, it was not a demonstration.

9 Protests are a part of the fabric of our  
10 nation. You may have seen one coming into the building  
11 yesterday or today. But our society has drawn lines on  
12 what constitutes a protest and what constitutes a crime.

13 We as a country have enacted these laws to  
14 hold people who commit crimes accountable, and that's why  
15 we're here today. The law prohibits people from using  
16 physical obstruction to intimidate or interfere with a  
17 person who is either getting or giving reproductive  
18 health services.

19 Whether violent or not, doing that is a  
20 crime. It's also a crime to conspire, meaning to agree,  
21 to do that. The term reproductive healthcare covers a  
22 lot of services, birth control, ultrasounds, prenatal  
23 care, miscarriage care, pregnancy counseling, not just  
24 abortion.

25 The law protects health clinics regardless

1 of whether or not they provide abortions or counsel  
2 against them. But this case, it's not about abortion.  
3 It's about following the law; about our agreement as a  
4 society to follow the laws as written and to hold those  
5 who break the law accountable.

6                   Over the next few days you'll learn how this  
7 blockade in Mt. Juliet came to be. The clinic called  
8 carafem was on the second floor of a medical building in  
9 Mt. Juliet that housed multiple businesses. This  
10 blockade of the clinic doors was planned because the  
11 blockaders believed that the local lawful protests, where  
12 the protesters stood outside the building's entrance who  
13 never needed to be arrested, were not successfully  
14 accessing the patients that were going to this clinic.  
15 So these defendants, many of whom are not from  
16 Mt. Juliet, decided to travel here, join together, go  
17 inside and block the doors.

18                   This blockade of the clinic was planned at  
19 least a month in advance. Over the month of February,  
20 these defendants and others planned travel to  
21 Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. They invited others. One  
22 defendant traveled to Tennessee from Michigan to lock  
23 down his plans. They sent Facebook messages to plan  
24 various events leading up to the blockade. They set up  
25 sleeping arrangements and they paid for others' housing.

1                   They took actions to ensure that this  
2 blockade would be as well-attended as possible and last  
3 as long as possible. They vetted the participants,  
4 discussing who was willing to be arrested. One defendant  
5 went on the Internet and looked up the very law that he  
6 violated and is charged with here today that says that  
7 blocking access to a clinic entrance is a crime. He also  
8 looked up the Mt. Juliet Police Department and the  
9 Mt. Juliet jail. The blockaders were planning on being  
10 arrested.

11                   One of the participants in the blockade,  
12 Caroline Davis, will testify. Davis was charged in this  
13 case and she has pleaded guilty. She'll describe the  
14 careful planning that went into this blockade. She'll  
15 also describe her role. She'll explain why these  
16 defendants chose to block these doors because the legal  
17 protest outside the building weren't getting the job  
18 done, so they needed to come inside and block the doors  
19 of the clinic.

20                   She'll describe a final planning meeting  
21 once everyone got to Tennessee at which they divvied out  
22 roles: Blocking doors, lookouts to warn others that  
23 patients were coming or leaving, engaging police to stall  
24 them to make the blockade last as long as possible,  
25 blowfish.

1                   A blowfish, you'll learn, is a person that  
2 remained in the hallway during the course of the blockade  
3 to try to appear to police that they were willing to be  
4 arrested but, in fact, intended to leave before final  
5 arrests were actually made. Their job? To delay arrests  
6 and make the blockade last longer. The defendants even  
7 had a videographer creating a how-to for future  
8 blockades.

9                   The morning of the blockade the clinic was  
10 set to open at 8:00 a.m. The blockaders came prepared  
11 with a preprinted flyer that already said that people had  
12 been arrested. This was no accident. They were planning  
13 on being arrested.

14                   The blockaders entered the building and took  
15 positions up and down the hallway. The clinic had two  
16 entrance points, the main entrance for patients and a  
17 second entrance for employees. Some of the defendants  
18 and the other blockaders took up position in front of the  
19 main entrance. Some of them took up positions in front  
20 of the employee entrance. Others filled the hallway.

21                   Some of these blockaders were some of these  
22 defendants' children. During the course of the morning,  
23 three of those defendants filmed the blockade. In their  
24 recordings, the morning wears on. Patients turn away  
25 from the clinic because of the blockaders.

1                   An employee exits the clinic but can't get  
2 back in because one of the defendants refuses to move  
3 from in front of a door. You'll see the coordinated  
4 effort of these defendants and the blockaders to turn  
5 away as many patients as possible. One defendant leaves  
6 because the police start talking about arrests but leaves  
7 his children behind to continue the blockade.

8                   When police arrived, the blockaders were  
9 told to leave and none complied. Over the course of the  
10 multiple hours, some of the defendants drew out  
11 negotiations with police. In the defendant's own words,  
12 this was a tactic that they were using to buy more time.

13                  A patient who was turned away by the  
14 defendants and the other blockaders will testify. You'll  
15 hear from an employee of the clinic who was trapped  
16 inside the clinic for hours because the defendants would  
17 not move away from their positions in front of the doors.  
18 A police officer will testify who tried to escort a  
19 patient down the hallway and had to physically move some  
20 of the blockaders but still couldn't get the patient  
21 through the clinic door.

22                  The blockade went on for almost three hours  
23 before police finally arrested some of the blockaders and  
24 allowed the clinic and the other businesses to go back to  
25 normal. The blockaders could not have blocked that

1 hallway for so long without the help of the participants  
2 and all the different roles that they played; stalling  
3 the police, blocking the main door, blocking the employee  
4 entrance, being on the lookout for patients and filling  
5 the hallway.

6 So the defendant was right, this was not a  
7 protest. People are entitled to hold whatever beliefs  
8 they like. It's a fundamental part of America, but that  
9 does not mean that they get to break the law. Another  
10 fundamental part of America is the rule of law, which  
11 means that when a person violates the law, there are  
12 consequences and they are held accountable.

18 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Klopf.

19 Ms. Bell, do you wish to argue?

20 MS. BELL: Yes.

21 THE COURT: All right.

DEFENDANT GALLAGHER OPENING STATEMENT

23 MS. BELL: Thank you.

24 Make sure you guys can hear me. On March 5,  
25 2021, my client, Chester Gallagher, engaged in a

1       peaceful, nonviolent rescue in the hallways outside the  
2       carafem clinic in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. You'll hear  
3       this word rescue throughout the trial. It will be given  
4       different meanings probably. But one meaning I think  
5       that everyone will agree to is that a rescue is where you  
6       try to persuade a pregnant woman or a couple who's  
7       expecting a child not to go forward with an abortion or  
8       to terminate their pregnancy. A rescue is rescuing the  
9       unborn.

10               Now, my name is Jodie Bell. I represent  
11       Mr. Chester Gallagher, defendant No. 1. Mr. Gallagher's  
12       a husband to his wife Joann. He's a former law  
13       enforcement officer --

14               MS. KLOPF: Objection, Your Honor.

15               THE COURT: Ms. Bell, that's inappropriate  
16       opening. You're testifying.

17               MS. BELL: He's a former law enforcement  
18       officer?

19               THE COURT: You are testifying and giving  
20       evidence. Opening argument is inappropriate for that.

21               MS. BELL: The proof will show that my  
22       client is a minister.

23               MS. KLOPF: Objection, Your Honor, that  
24       violates the pretrial ruling.

25               THE COURT: Bench conference.

1 (Whereupon, the following proceedings were  
2 had at the bench outside the hearing of the jury:)

3 THE COURT: Government say the objection.

4 MS. KLOPF: Your Honor, we are objecting on  
5 the evidence of this, which this Court has ruled on in  
6 our pretrial motions.

11 I can't hear you, Ms. Bell.

12 MS. BELL: And other witnesses who are going  
13 to testify I think can testify to those facts as well and  
14 are aware of his ministry and those sorts of things. So  
15 I think it is fair and that is what happened on this  
16 particular occasion. I think the proof will show that  
17 these people were engaged in ministry leading up to what  
18 happened on March 5 there.

24 MS. BELL: I think a number of other  
25 witnesses may be testifying to that as well. I believe

1 Ms. --

2 MS. KLOPF: Also some of that testimony  
3 sounds inappropriate and like it would violate the  
4 Court's pretrial order on evidence it sounds like on  
5 ministry and things like that.

6 MS. BELL: I respectfully disagree with her.

7 THE COURT: Well, you may not give  
8 background facts about your defendant. I'm not sure what  
9 evidence is coming in. I'm sure the government is not  
10 going to bring out, in its witnesses, any background  
11 facts about your defendant that you're proffering to the  
12 jury at this time. So stay away from that subject.

13 MR. CRAMPTON: Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Yes.

15 MR. CRAMPTON: In the same vein, if I may  
16 address my opening, I do intend to mention for Mr. Vaughn  
17 that he conducts a sidewalk counseling ministry in the  
18 context of his bringing some of those sidewalk counselors  
19 to this event and that being the reason that he was  
20 there. Not by way of character evidence, but by way of  
21 setting up exactly what he was doing there, why he was  
22 there.

23 THE COURT: Well, if he's going to testify,  
24 but you're not going to tell me right now he's going to  
25 testify and you can't commit to his testifying at this

1 point. So if the only way this evidence is coming in is  
2 if he testifies, you cannot cover it in opening  
3 statement.

4 MR. CRAMPTON: We have other witnesss that  
5 we anticipate will address it.

6 THE COURT: Well, I'm not sure that it's  
7 relevant.

8 MR. CRAMPTON: It goes to motive here,  
9 Your Honor. The government has already raised they came  
10 to be arrested. We will show that Mr. Vaughn did not  
11 come to be arrested. He came to minister, the same way  
12 he ministers elsewhere.

13 THE COURT: We'll deal with it when you make  
14 your opening statement.

15 (End of bench conference. Whereupon, the  
16 following proceedings were had in the hearing and  
17 presence of the jury:)

18 MS. BELL: May I proceed?

19 THE COURT: Yeah.

20 MS. BELL: As I was saying, my client, he's  
21 a minister. He's a pro-life advocate. His ministry and  
22 his pro-life advocacy overlap. As part of his ministry,  
23 he rescues, we just talked about, engages in rescues that  
24 involve what's called interposition. You'll hear about  
25 that.

1                   He also knows that through these activities  
2 he risks arrest. Those are things you'll hear through  
3 the course of the trial: Rescue, attempting to save the  
4 unborn. Interposition is this idea of getting between  
5 the expecting woman and the clinic and engaging that  
6 person, offering help, offering counseling, giving that  
7 woman a moment to pause, confront this empathetic offer  
8 of help before making a decision that cannot be taken  
9 back.

10                  To do that, a rescuer needs to get close to  
11 that person during this time of need and knows that  
12 sometimes that means you're getting close to the door of  
13 a clinic and you're risking arrest for doing so.

14                  Now, in February and March 2021, my client,  
15 Mr. Gallagher, who has lots of friends that he's very  
16 close with who share similar beliefs, organized a  
17 ministry, rally and rescue in Middle Tennessee. As part  
18 of that, he invited people who share his beliefs to come  
19 and participate. He helped, with his friend Heather  
20 Idoni, arrange for lodging for people who might have had  
21 a financial hardship but wanted to come.

22                  He arranged for a church for services. He  
23 arranged for meals. He sent all that out. He did that  
24 ahead of time, and people came. They came to Middle  
25 Tennessee. They stayed in lodging arranged for them by

1 Mr. Gallagher and Ms. Idoni. They prayed together and  
2 they worshiped, and on March 5 of 2021 they went to the  
3 carafem clinic to do a rescue.

4 Before going into what happened there, you  
5 need to understand that, as Ms. Klopf said, the carafem  
6 clinic is located on the second floor of a medical office  
7 building. It's at the end of a long hallway. There are  
8 other businesses in the building, so in order to identify  
9 who might be coming for a procedure at the carafem  
10 clinic, you need to get closer to the clinic to do that  
11 interposition.

12 So at 7:45 in the morning on March 5, my  
13 client, along with others, headed over to the carafem  
14 clinic and went up to that second floor for the purpose  
15 of offering this help as part of this rescue.

16 And you'll see that there were people with  
17 my client who were taking video of what was going on  
18 because a rescue needs to be peaceful and nonviolent. It  
19 needs to be orderly. It is an emotional thing. People  
20 are confronting a lot of feelings. You don't need people  
21 talking all over, you don't need people rushing towards a  
22 woman who's in crisis. People sort of need to know when  
23 they need to stand back and move forward.

24 People filmed the rescue, and that's where  
25 most of the government's video clip is going to come

1 from, from Mr. Green, Mr. Gallagher, from Mr. Boyd. They  
2 filmed the rescue. Yes, to show other people how to  
3 safely do it, peacefully and nonviolently, but also so  
4 they couldn't be accused of intimidating, threatening  
5 others, so there would be a record of exactly what  
6 happened.

7 Mr. Gallagher, based on his former  
8 employment, he would talk to the police. He was one of  
9 the people. You don't want everyone talking to the  
10 police. They do anticipate with a lot of people in a  
11 hallway outside a reproductive health services clinic  
12 that the police will come. And they want to engage the  
13 police, let them know why they're there, what they're  
14 doing. So you'll see that.

15 What you'll also see on these videos is an  
16 interposition. And I'd ask you to pay close attention to  
17 that. You'll hear from the Ashbys, the couple that comes  
18 up at about 7:45, a little before 8:00 out of that  
19 elevator. They make a left turn out of the elevator,  
20 then they turn left again and start down that long hall.  
21 Mr. Ashby goes into the restroom. Ms. Ashby remains in  
22 the hallway.

23 It's really important to watch this. She's  
24 approached by two young women about her size, about her  
25 age. They're not yelling at her, they're not screaming

1 at her. They're trying to engage her. They assume she's  
2 there for a procedure, and they want to offer that  
3 lifeline, that opportunity, that help. That's why we're  
4 there. The other rescuers stand by and let these two  
5 young women engage somebody else, somebody who's in  
6 crisis.

7                   While that happens, Ms. Flowers, a clinic  
8 worker does approach. She comes up, she's frustrated.  
9 She's aggravated, and that's fair. Let me just say that.  
10 It's totally fair to be frustrated and aggravated when  
11 you come to work in the morning and the hallway outside  
12 your job is crowded with people singing, praying. It's  
13 not what you expected. So I don't fault her.

14                   But she comes up and she tells the Ashbys,  
15 go downstairs, go to your car, I'll call you later. And  
16 then she turns around with her cell phone pulled out now  
17 and says, super pro-life, no masks. It's very  
18 aggravated, very angry. No one's engaging her, no one's  
19 elevating this tense situation out of that group.

20                   Ms. Flowers turns to go back into the  
21 building through the employee entrance, and Mr. Zastrow  
22 is there sitting on the ground. She tells him to move.  
23 He said, respectfully, ma'am, no. He's sitting on the  
24 floor. You're trespassing. Okay, ma'am, very humble,  
25 very quiet. I'm calling the police, they're coming,

1 okay, ma'am. He's de-escalating a tense situation.

2 And the police come. The police show up.

3 The police do arrive. They engage these rescuers, they

4 speak with Mr. Gallagher. They speak with Mr. Vaughn.

5 They start talking about why they're there and explaining  
6 what's going on.

7 During this time another patient comes to  
8 the clinic or suspected patient. This patient is with a  
9 police escort. And the officer does come down the hall  
10 with her and say, clear the seas, clear the seas. He  
11 does have to push people, but the rescuers comply. They  
12 get out of the way. They do what he's asking them to do.  
13 Now, the woman says, I've got enough of this. That's  
14 fair enough for her. She walks away.

15 The rescuers are there from about 7:45 to  
16 10:15. Prior to the end of all of this, Officer  
17 Bancroft, who you'll hear from, comes down the line of  
18 rescuers and asks all the people that are there for their  
19 name, the date of birth and the state they're from. No  
20 one refuses that information. They give it to her.

21 After she's done, five-minute warning is  
22 given. Anyone who doesn't want to be arrested, leave.  
23 Bunch of people leave, some stay. The end of the five  
24 minutes, those that stay stand up and peacefully,  
25 nonviolently are placed in handcuffs and walked down the

1 stairs.

2 They don't go limp. They don't fall to the  
3 ground. They don't prolong things. They don't resist  
4 arrest. They don't chain themselves to the railing in  
5 the stairwell as they're walking down. They peacefully,  
6 nonviolently, compliantly --

7 MS. KLOPF: Your Honor, I'm going to object  
8 to this as --

9 THE COURT: This is argument, not opening  
10 statement as to what the proof will show.

11 MS. BELL: The proof will show that on that  
12 day there were no threats. There's no oppression, no  
13 injury, nobody was placed in reasonable fear of injury.  
14 On that day what happened at the carafem clinic in  
15 Mt. Juliet was a peaceful, nonviolent rescue. No  
16 violation of federal law, no FACE Act violation, no  
17 conspiracy to violate the law. Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Bell.

19 Mr. Parris, do you wish to make an opening?

20 DEFENDANT ZASTROW OPENING STATEMENT

21 MR. PARRIS: Well, I did --

22 THE COURT: Change your mind?

23 MR. PARRIS: -- until Ms. Bell covered  
24 everything, so I'm not going to go back through it. Four  
25 words, I want you to remember four words. If you're a

1 note taker, do this for me, because in three, four, five  
2 days I'm going to come back to it. Injure, oppress,  
3 threaten, intimidate.

4 My name's Robert Parris. I represent Calvin  
5 Zastrow, that gentleman nodding his head. And something  
6 happened on March 5, 2021, that's going to be called a  
7 protest, going to be called a rescue, it's going to be  
8 called a blockade, it's going to be called a prayer  
9 meeting, whatever. It doesn't matter legally.

10 Because Count One of the indictment alleges  
11 that there was an agreement made between these  
12 defendants. And as you've heard, I assume it's been said  
13 to you-all that the government has to prove each and  
14 every element of the charge beyond a reasonable doubt.  
15 And the second -- the first element is there had to be an  
16 agreement. It's called a conspiracy. And I don't think  
17 there's any question there was an agreement. Now, to do  
18 what, that's different, but they did come to an  
19 agreement.

20 But the second element is that the aim of  
21 the agreement was to act together to injure, oppress,  
22 threaten or intimidate a person in the free exercise or  
23 enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to a person  
24 by the laws of the United States, which would be access  
25 to the reproductive health. But if you don't get past

1 that element in Count One, the rest of it doesn't matter.

2                   And I'm submitting to you that the evidence  
3 will show the exact opposite of injury, oppression,  
4 threats or intimidation.

5                   Now, the only -- and the only possible  
6 argument that could be made in this case would be that  
7 many people in a small area, regardless of what their  
8 acts were --

9                   MS. KLOPF: Objection, Your Honor.  
10 Argumentative.

11                   MR. PARRIS: I'll withdraw it, Your Honor.  
12 I've made my point.

13                   But the evidence will show just exactly what  
14 Ms. Bell said. That's how that went down. It's going to  
15 be on video. It's not a question about what happened.  
16 But I submit to you, three or four days from now when I  
17 stand up here again, I'm going to look at you and say,  
18 what you saw, the testimony you heard, the evidence  
19 certainly does not support it, that any of those four  
20 elements the government is able to prove beyond a  
21 reasonable doubt.

22                   Moreover, even if somehow or another the  
23 evidence were to show one of those, the government must  
24 also prove that there was a prior agreement to do that  
25 and there is no evidence to show that. The evidence will

1 show, as Ms. Bell stated so well, that it's peaceful,  
2 nonviolent, orderly. The exact opposite of those four  
3 words that I just read to you that are in the statute,  
4 that are in your instruction, that are in the indictment.  
5 Annoying, maybe. Little distasteful to some, maybe.  
6 Aggravating to those at work, probably. But the crime  
7 charged, no.

8                   In three or four days after all the proof is  
9 in, I'm confident that you will not find any of those  
10 four words have been proven beyond a reasonable doubt and  
11 your verdict to Count One will be not guilty. Thank you.

12                   THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Parris.

13                   Mr. Haymaker, do you wish to argue?

14                   DEFENDANT BOYD OPENING STATEMENT

15                   MR. HAYMAKER: Good afternoon. My name is  
16 Kerry Haymaker. The gentleman here, Steven Thornton, and  
17 we represent Coleman Biden -- Coleman Boyd the gentleman  
18 in the gray jacket and green tie. I'm going to keep this  
19 fairly short because the other two lawyers have done a  
20 very good job of weighing out what happened that day.

21                   But the evidence will show that Mr. Boyd's  
22 presence that day was a little bit different. You're  
23 going to hear that this entire episode lasted about two  
24 and a half hours from start to finish. You're going to  
25 hear evidence that Coleman Boyd arrived on the second

1 floor of that building at 7:47 a.m. prior to the  
2 scheduled time where that clinic was supposed to even  
3 open. He got off the elevator. He walked a few steps to  
4 the corner of a hallway and he stood at the end of the  
5 hallway. He was about 60 feet, all the way at the end of  
6 the hallway about 60 feet from the entrance to carafem.

7 The entire time he was there he remained in  
8 the same spot. He never got closer than about 60 feet to  
9 the carafem door. He arrived at 7:47 a.m. and at 12  
10 minutes after 8:00, 12 minutes after the carafem clinic  
11 was scheduled to open, he left.

12 You will know exactly what he said while he  
13 was on the floor. You will know exactly what he did  
14 while he was on the floor. And the reason you will know  
15 is because you are going to see the video that was taken  
16 by him. Not only was a video taken by him, it was video  
17 that he broadcast on Facebook livestream.

18 So I say all that to say this. As you  
19 listen to the evidence in this case, I want one question  
20 to linger in the back of your mind. And that question is  
21 what did he do? What did Coleman Boyd do? Thank you.

22 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Haymaker.

23 Mr. Crampton, do you wish to make an  
24 argument -- I mean, an opening statement? I know you  
25 wish to make an argument.

1 DEFENDANT VAUGHN OPENING STATEMENT

2 MR. CRAMPTON: Yes, I do. Thank you.

3 Good afternoon. Thank you all for your  
4 patience and for your close attention here. My name is  
5 Steve Crampton. I represent the defendant Paul Vaughn  
6 seated pretty much immediately behind me.

7 As some of my co-counsel have already  
8 explained and laid out and I hope you've gathered, each  
9 defendant comes before you with a whole separate  
10 perspective, whole separate story, separate facts. And I  
11 would ask and urge you to pay particularly close  
12 attention to the facts as the government presents them --  
13 the burden of proof, of course, being the government's --  
14 to ensure that they don't just present evidence of, as  
15 they said in opening statement, the blockaders or the  
16 group. But that the evidence shows individually what  
17 each defendant did.

18 And somewhat like what Mr. Haymaker said  
19 with respect to Coleman Boyd, so I expect the evidence  
20 will show you with regard to Mr. Vaughn. Mr. Vaughn, I  
21 would submit to you, at the end of the evidence, you will  
22 conclude is an innocent man.

23 He is accused, like all the others, of  
24 conspiring to injure, intimidate, oppress or threaten  
25 someone in violation of a federal right. And, again, I

1 will challenge you, you find in all the evidence  
2 presented here where Mr. Vaughn ever engaged in an act of  
3 oppression, ever injured anyone, ever threatened anyone,  
4 ever intimidated anyone. What you will find instead is  
5 Mr. Vaughn played a very key role here, but a role  
6 disengaged from any actions near the clinic entrance. He  
7 wasn't blocking or interfering with anyone.

24 I would submit to you that for those who  
25 view it that way, it is indeed an interposition, but that

1 doesn't mean it can't also be what you may have seen in  
2 the historic past, simple sit-ins. To watch the video,  
3 which you will see, it will be indistinguishable to you  
4 between the actions of the Civil Rights marches --

5 MS. KLOPF: Objection, Your Honor, this is  
6 argumentative.

7 MR. CRAMPTON: I'll move along, Your Honor.

8 It was a simple, as has been said, a  
9 peaceful, nonviolent exercise. In the meantime with  
10 respect to Mr. Vaughn, the evidence will show and you  
11 will hear from police officers, he was respectful, he  
12 obeyed what they asked him to do. He was a key component  
13 to their resolving successfully this whole situation  
14 that, as I said, they had never encountered before.

15 So at the end of the day Mr. Vaughn did not  
16 come to risk arrest. He came to assist or ended up  
17 acting in this capacity, both the folks that were near  
18 the door and were engaged in this rescue kind of activity  
19 and the police officers who had their own job to do. And  
20 yet he stands accused of conspiring and of violating the  
21 FACE Act.

22 And the accusation stands that he delayed  
23 and he intentionally delayed the police in undertaking  
24 their actions and effectuating either removal of the  
25 folks or conducting arrests. And I will submit to you

1 that the evidence will, in fact, show that he did not  
2 delay any police action. Again, instead he assisted the  
3 police. For that action, he stands here accused of these  
4 very serious crimes.

5                   The government has also mentioned to you  
6 this plotting and planning before the events of March 5;  
7 right? We anticipate the government will present a good  
8 deal of evidence to you showing text messages, Facebook  
9 messages, Facebook searches, communications of all kinds  
10 between various defendants and others. And I will ask  
11 you again, please pay very careful attention. Look and  
12 see if you see Paul Vaughn's name mentioned anywhere in  
13 those communications. I submit you will not.

14                   The government also makes much of this  
15 planning meeting the night before or maybe two nights  
16 before, maybe there were two different meetings, where  
17 they discussed and divvied out, as the government says,  
18 the roles of these various individuals to play. Again,  
19 listen carefully. See if you hear Paul Vaughn's name  
20 mentioned as attending any of these sessions. I submit  
21 you will not.

22                   And the evidence will show he neither  
23 participated in any planning, nor acted in response to  
24 anyone's request from the other defendants to do what he  
25 did on that day. Consequently, we will ask and we will

1 submit to you that at the end of the evidence, the only  
2 logical, reasonable and just verdict is not guilty for  
3 Paul Vaughn. Don't shoot the messenger. Thank you.

4 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Crampton.

5 Mr. Russ, do you wish to make an opening?

6 MR. RUSS: Yes, Your Honor.

7 DEFENDANT GREEN OPENING STATEMENT

8 MR. RUSS: Good afternoon, everyone. Again,  
9 my name is Ben Russ. I represent Mr. Dennis Green who is  
10 sitting behind me with the longer beard and glasses. One  
11 of the benefits of going fifth in the order is that a lot  
12 has been said, so I won't belabor a lot of points that  
13 you've already heard, but I did want to reiterate a few.

14 First of all, we talked about the fact that  
15 you're not really in one trial, you're trying six  
16 different people here. So I would remind you, as several  
17 people who have come up here already have said, look at  
18 what Mr. Green did and you can hold Mr. Green accountable  
19 for what he did, but you can't hold him accountable for  
20 everybody else's actions. I would ask that you do that.

21 I would also ask you to focus on the  
22 statutes that they're charged with and the exact wording  
23 of these statutes. Mr. Parris talked about the  
24 conspiracy statute, which is Count One. And he's  
25 correct. In order for you to find Mr. Green or anyone

1 else guilty of that count, you have to find that they  
2 conspired to oppress, to threaten, to injure or to  
3 intimidate someone in the exercise of their right of  
4 access to the clinic.

5 Also, in Count Two, which is the act of  
6 violating the FACE Act itself, which you've heard a lot  
7 already at this point, you have to find that they either  
8 intimidated or interfered with somebody in accessing the  
9 clinic.

10 Now, you've heard, again, that there's going  
11 to be a lot of video that you're going to look at.  
12 Mr. Green is one of the people that was filming one of  
13 those videos. And you're going to see what he had to say  
14 and what everyone else had to say and Mr. Gallagher's  
15 video and Mr. Boyd's video and the case -- the clinic  
16 worker's video. You're going to see all aspects of this.  
17 It's a little unusual in a criminal case where the  
18 evidence is essentially livestreamed. But that's what  
19 happened here.

20 So we're not necessarily here about the  
21 facts. We're here about the interpretation of the facts  
22 through the lens of the law the Judge will give you at  
23 the end of the case. Just like Mr. Parris said and just  
24 like I've said two minutes ago, in order for you to find  
25 Mr. Green or any of the other defendants guilty on either

1 of those counts, you have to show in Count One where they  
2 oppressed, threatened, intimidated, injured; or in Count  
3 Two, where they interfered with or intimidated someone  
4 going into the clinic.

5                   Be careful, as I'm sure you will, when you  
6 analyze that evidence. Listen to all the evidence and I  
7 think it will take a few days, but I think it will move  
8 pretty quickly. At the end of that, I think you're going  
9 to find that neither of these statutes have been violated  
10 by Mr. Green.

11                   THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Russ.

12                   Mr. Conway, do you wish to make an opening?

13                   MR. CONWAY: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.

14                   DEFENDANT IDONI OPENING STATEMENT

15                   MR. CONWAY: Ladies and gentlemen, I  
16 represent Heather Idoni. She's the only female charged  
17 that's sitting at the table. I want to first start out  
18 by telling you she's not guilty. I want to tell you why.

19                   Quickly I just want to go over three things.  
20 One, Ms. Idoni didn't talk to, didn't have any  
21 interaction with any patients on March 5, 2021. She  
22 didn't talk to, have any action -- any interaction with  
23 any of the providers, any of the healthcare workers, any  
24 of the nurses, any of the employees.

25                   She didn't talk to or have any interaction

1 other than giving some demographics to the police. This  
2 criminal trial as it relates to Ms. Idoni is going to  
3 kind of come at you as a story, I'm going to try and  
4 speed it up. Three chapters. The first chapter is going  
5 to be how did we get here? What happened prior to  
6 March 5 that led all these people to get together. Then  
7 a second chapter will be, well, what happened in the  
8 hallway. And then the third chapter will be, you know,  
9 what happened and everything after.

10 Obviously, as every story, there's kind of a  
11 cast of characters. There's a lot in this case so I'm  
12 not going to go over all of them, but basically we've got  
13 one group, devote, pro-life, those kind of people.  
14 Ms. Idoni is one of those people. We have abortion  
15 clinic workers, reproductive healthcare workers, the  
16 patients seeking healthcare. We've got the police that  
17 have come to the scene.

18 So Chapter 1, how did we get here? Well,  
19 Ms. Idoni is friends with Chet Gallagher as you heard.  
20 They share very similar beliefs and you're going to hear  
21 about that. She was told about this particular clinic  
22 and they asked her to come down and it was in need of a,  
23 quote/unquote, rescue.

24 You're going to see the messages between  
25 Ms. Idoni and Mr. Gallagher that are going to be kind of

1 setting up the lodging. Ms. Idoni has all these Wyndham  
2 hotel points from her and her husband, so she could help  
3 this group out by using her Wyndham points and providing  
4 a free place to stay. And you'll see messages that  
5 that's exactly what she did.

6                   And for helping the group find housing, she  
7 wasn't going to accept any kind of payment or anything.  
8 That's just not how she is. The plan was to get there on  
9 Wednesday, March the 3rd in the evening. Then they were  
10 going to hold rallies, prayer sessions. She was going to  
11 attend -- she doesn't really lead them -- about March 5.  
12 The prayer sessions, they kind of pray for everybody.  
13 They pray for the police, they pray for the mothers, they  
14 pray for the babies, themselves and anything you can  
15 talk -- think about. It's going to be a lot like what  
16 you're going to see in the multiple videos that happened  
17 in the hallway of March 5.

18                   Now, Caroline Davis is going to talk about  
19 kind of these before-session prayers and rallies and  
20 stuff. And a lot of the times what they do is they pray  
21 collectively and then they pray individually and they ask  
22 for guidance from the Holy Spirit on what they're going  
23 to do when they get to this clinic, this clinic on Friday  
24 morning.

25                   For them it's very spiritual. It's very

1 personal. Ms. Idoni was led not to interact with  
2 anybody, not to make things dangerous. She was possibly  
3 going to provide some guidance, some persuasion or some  
4 dissuasion to any mothers, but as you'll see from the  
5 videos, she didn't do any of that. She never acted --  
6 interacted with any patients or any providers or  
7 anything.

8 So that kind of leads us to Chapter 2, what  
9 happened in the hallway. Well, I'm going to keep it a  
10 little bit short because literally everything is on  
11 video. Body cams, multiple other defendants were filming  
12 it, other people that are not here were filming it. She  
13 arrived, she stood next to the door, her hands up, just  
14 like my hands are now and prayed and sang the entire time  
15 that she was there.

16 The whole thing lasted between two and a  
17 half, three hours. You know, there's been some  
18 discrepancy, but this was in the morning. They got there  
19 before it opened and they were gone before lunchtime,  
20 before 11:30 because the police arrived fairly quickly.  
21 They realized that it was a nonviolent, peaceful what  
22 they would call protest. And it was in front of the  
23 doors, as Ms. Bell said.

24 Because this is not like a stand-alone  
25 Planned Parenthood like off Charlotte, I don't know if

1 it's still there, but it's inside of a medical facility.  
2 So some people might be coming in and they go talk to  
3 them and they say, I'm here to get my teeth cleaned.  
4 That's why they went up to the second floor.

5 You're going to hear from a Detective  
6 Watkins who was the lead investigator on the scene. At  
7 10:05 a.m. he makes his final order. He said, y'all  
8 don't leave in five minutes, people are going to start  
9 getting arrested. Some people left, some people didn't.  
10 Ms. Idoni didn't.

11 Her, these other defendants, that were on  
12 the wall, and there's others, were arrested by MJPD,  
13 Mt. Juliet PD for criminal trespass. They thought at  
14 that point in time that was the end of it. Come about a  
15 year later in March of 2022, officers from MJPD began  
16 being interviewed by the federal authorities for the  
17 investigation of the FACE Act, which is why we're all  
18 here today.

19 They poured over Facebook posts, Google  
20 searches, phone records, personal Facebook  
21 correspondence. They got it all. And you're going to  
22 see it all. You're going to see it all throughout this  
23 week. That's what the trial's about.

24 After you see it all, when the evidence is  
25 over, you're going to see exactly what I'm talking about.

1 Ms. Idoni didn't interact with any patients, didn't  
2 interact with any providers, didn't hardly interact with  
3 any police. She's here because she had Wyndham points  
4 and she wanted to help out her friends with similar  
5 beliefs with the lodging. At the end of the trial, the  
6 Judge is going to instruct you on the law. And when you  
7 apply it to Ms. Idoni, I'm confident that you'll find her  
8 not guilty. Thank you.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much.

10 All right. Is the government ready with its  
11 witnesses?

12 MR. BOYNTON: The government calls Sergeant  
13 Lance Schneider.

14 THE COURT: Sergeant Lance Schneider.

15 MR. BOYNTON: Your Honor, we do have a  
16 procedural step here with transcript binders. Would  
17 Your Honor like to take the afternoon break now or charge  
18 ahead?

19 THE COURT: I'd sort of like to charge ahead  
20 unless any of the jurors need a break? Does anybody need  
21 a break desperately? We've just got another hour to go.

22 MR. CRAMPTON: Not that we count, but we  
23 would second the motion.

24 THE COURT: To get the binders ready?

25 MR. BOYNTON: Yes, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I don't think we  
2 probably need the break to get the binders ready. You  
3 can just pass them out, can't you? You've got several  
4 people there at your table who might be able to help.

5                       Okay, members of the jury, don't open these  
6 yet. I believe they are transcripts of videos and audios  
7 you will hear; is that right, Ms. Klopf, Mr. Boynton?  
8 These are transcripts of various videos and audios you  
9 intend to play?

10 MR. BOYNTON: That's correct, Your Honor.

## LANCE SCHNEIDER

2 called as a witness, after having been first duly sworn,  
3 testified as follows:

## **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

5 | BY MR. BOYNTON:

6 Q. Good afternoon, Sergeant Schneider. Will  
7 you please state your full name and spell it for the  
8 court reporter.

9           A.        My name is Lance Schneider.    Spelling of the  
10          last name is S-c-h-n-e-i-d-e-r.    First name Lance,  
11          L-a-n-c-e.

12 Q. And where is your hometown, sir?

13 A. My hometown is Murfreesboro. Or Nashville,  
14 Tennessee, currently living in Murfreesboro.

15 Q. Where are you employed right now?

16 A. The City of Mt. Juliet Police Department.

17 Q. And it's probably obvious, but what's your  
18 job with the City of Mt. Juliet?

19                   A.        Currently I am a municipal investigator with  
20 the rank of corporal. I believe at the date and time of  
21 occurrence of this event I was the sergeant on the A  
22 detail patrol back in 2021.

23 Q. And how long have you been employed with  
24 Mt. Juliet Police Department?

25 A. 15 years and a few months.

1           Q.     Were you employed anywhere else before that,  
2 sir?

3           A.     Yes, sir, the La Vergne Police Department.

4           Q.     How long were you with La Vergne?

5           A.     Nine years.

6           Q.     How big is the Mt. Juliet Police Department?

7           A.     Roughly about 85 to 90 officers. The  
8 department, you said?

9           Q.     Yeah. And around March of 2021, you said  
10 that you were a patrol sergeant at that time; is that  
11 right?

12          A.     Yes.

13          Q.     And what were your duties as a patrol  
14 sergeant with the Mt. Juliet Police Department?

15          A.     As a patrol sergeant it's my responsibility  
16 to manage the duties of the officers assigned under me,  
17 which at the time was about eight or nine. So I have to  
18 make sure that they are performing their jobs correctly  
19 and entertaining any kind of complaints that come up  
20 against them, as well as doing the standard job of a  
21 patrol officer.

22          Q.     At the time you said there were about 80 or  
23 90 sworn with the Mt. Juliet Police Department. Was that  
24 true back in 2021?

25          A.     No, it was probably about 65 to 70 back

1 then.

2 Q. And back then how big was one of your patrol  
3 shifts?

4 A. About eight or nine on a good day.

5 Q. When you say on a good day, what do you mean  
6 by that?

7 A. If nobody was sick, no vacations, no  
8 training, things of that nature.

9 Q. So if you're full staffed, you're at eight  
10 or nine?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. When we're talking about a patrol shift, the  
13 size of your patrol shift, what does that mean?

14 A. Could you restate that question?

15 Q. Sure. I just want to help the jury  
16 understand what a patrol shift is. So you've got patrol  
17 duties, responsibilities in the city of Mt. Juliet?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You've got eight or nine officers on your  
20 shift. Are there other officers available to assist with  
21 calls that come in or is the shift the group of folks who  
22 are responsible for those calls?

23 A. During the daytime there is the patrol  
24 shift. Like I said, on a good day is eight or nine  
25 officers at the time. There are investigators, there are

1 administrative personnel that are sworn that can come out  
2 and assist if need be.

3 Q. But generally it's the eight or nine  
4 officers who are covering the shift?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. Okay. And those are the calls for service  
7 coming in?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. All right. I want to take you back to  
10 March 5, 2021. Were you on duty that day, Sergeant?

11 A. Yes, but not at a patrol fashion. We had a  
12 training evolution going on at the time.

13 Q. And can you explain to the jury what that  
14 is?

15 A. We had an in-house training that we were  
16 doing that my shift was a part of because that was not a  
17 typical duty day for us.

18 Q. So, in other words, you were supposed to be  
19 off duty that day, but instead of being off duty you were  
20 in training?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And were you dressed in uniform that day?

23 A. No, I was not. I had on what we call our  
24 training uniform, which consists of khaki-style pants and  
25 a black City of Mt. Juliet Police Department polo shirt.

1 Of course, with that we have to wear our vest and gun  
2 belt because we drive a patrol car.

3 Q. So if you were to leave training, you'd be  
4 wearing -- at least your ballistic vest; is that right?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Does your ballistic vest bear your badge of  
7 authority?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. At some point on March 5, 2021, did you  
10 become of aware for a need of officers at the Providence  
11 pavilion in Mt. Juliet?

12 A. Yes, I did.

13 Q. Can you tell the jury what you heard?

14 A. We were in -- as I said, my shift was in  
15 a -- was in the training room, and I think we were on  
16 break at the time and we got notified that the patrol  
17 sergeant on duty was requesting as much help as he could  
18 get to that area. On the way there I found out more  
19 about what it was, just needed help with a lot of people,  
20 more than he had to manage.

21 Q. And you said on the way there. Can you  
22 describe to the jury exactly where you headed to?

23 A. I don't know how familiar they are with that  
24 area, but the Mt. Juliet Police Department is on the  
25 north end of town or north end of the city up close to

1 Lebanon Road. And the Providence pavilion in question is  
2 about four miles south on the south side of the  
3 interstate.

4 Q. And the Providence pavilion is the location  
5 you were called to; is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And the Providence pavilion is in  
8 Mt. Juliet?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And is Mt. Juliet in the Middle District of  
11 Tennessee?

12 A. Yes, it is.

13 Q. Was it just you who responded there or did  
14 other officers go as well?

15 A. Oh, no. We had -- I want to say every  
16 officer assigned to the south side of town for the patrol  
17 shift that was working that day was present. Everybody  
18 that was in training was present. And then shortly  
19 thereafter, all the detectives and administrative staff  
20 showed up.

21 Q. What did you see when you arrived, sir?

22 A. Inside or outside?

23 Q. Let's start with outside.

24 A. When I arrived outside, there was a lot of  
25 police vehicles in the parking lot. So I found a place

1 to park and there was a -- if I remember correctly, there  
2 was a group of people at the five -- I think it's the  
3 5000 building, which is right next door, it's an office  
4 building next door up on the hill, not -- not down in the  
5 pavilion parking lot.

6 I proceeded inside up to where I knew the  
7 clinic was, the specific location of this event. I went  
8 up the elevator and encountered a large group of police  
9 officers and a large group of people.

10 Q. Based on your training and experience as an  
11 officer, why was this a police issue?

12 A. The police issue existed when the group of  
13 protesters refused -- or disrupted business for the other  
14 businesses that were around and refused to leave when  
15 they were asked to leave by the property owner.

16 Q. And so you said the other businesses, and I  
17 want to talk about that a little bit more. So the  
18 building that you were in, was there just one business  
19 there or were there multiple businesses there?

20 A. No, it's multiple businesses on multiple  
21 floors.

22 Q. And are all of them associated with the  
23 carafem Health Clinic or are there a variety of  
24 businesses there, different types?

25 A. It's a variety. I believe one of the

1 businesses on that same floor was a Vanderbilt  
2 affiliated, like physical rehabilitation clinic for  
3 sports injuries and such.

4 Q. Okay. And you testified a moment ago that  
5 this was a police issue because of the disruption that  
6 this was causing, not just to carafem, but to the other  
7 businesses in the building; is that right?

8 A. Correct. The only reason we were there is  
9 because of the disruption and the fact that the people,  
10 the protestors had refused to leave.

11 Q. When you arrived, did you understand what  
12 you were supposed to be doing on scene?

13 A. Not at the moment. We had to collectively  
14 get together and decide what was the actual problem and  
15 how were we going to address it.

16 Q. At some point during the day did you become  
17 involved in making arrests?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Approximately how long after you arrived did  
20 you become involved in that process?

21 A. I'd say about two and a half, three hours.

22 Q. Do you recall, sitting here today, who you  
23 were responsible for arresting?

24 A. I took responsibility for arresting four  
25 juveniles. I do not remember their names.

1           Q.     And when you say arrested and you're talking  
2 about juveniles, can you describe the process that you  
3 mean by that term arrested?

4           A.     Yes.   In Wilson County an arrest for a  
5 juvenile is essentially a ticket.   It is a piece of paper  
6 that I fill out with a charge on it.   I give it to the  
7 Youth Services Division of the Wilson County Sheriff's  
8 Office who contacts the parents and says -- let's the  
9 parents know that their juvenile has a court date.

10          Q.     So they were issued summons essentially that  
11 required them to come to court?

12          A.     Yes.

13          Q.     But they weren't placed in handcuffs or put  
14 in patrol cars or anything like that?

15          A.     No.

16          Q.     And that's just the juveniles we're talking  
17 about; right?

18          A.     Correct.

19          Q.     I want to take you back to the second floor  
20 hallway.   At some point during the day did you learn that  
21 someone needed to get into the carafem clinic?

22          A.     Yes.

23          Q.     What was your reaction to that?

24          A.     I was -- I just happened to be standing  
25 closest to the hallway, so I was -- I was told to take

1 the female down to the clinic. And she got behind me and  
2 we started walking down the hall.

3 Q. Okay. So the person who needed to get in  
4 there, you recall that she was a female?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you know why she needed to get in there?

7 A. Not a clue.

8 Q. Okay. Had you ever seen her before?

9 A. No.

10 Q. All right. And you testified a second ago  
11 that you just started walking her down the hallway; is  
12 that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. All right. Based on your training and  
15 experience, why was it necessary for you to go with her  
16 down to the clinic?

17 A. Based -- based on my training and  
18 experience, the average person would not walk down that  
19 hall for being intimidated, overwhelmed, possibly in  
20 fear, but the group that we had been --

21 MR. CONWAY: Objection, speculation as far  
22 as what they might be thinking, judge.

23 MR. BOYNTON: Your Honor, I think it goes to  
24 the foundation for why he chose to do what he did. It's  
25 what was going through his mind at the time.

1                   THE COURT: You're just saying that you  
2 presumed that someone confronted with that situation  
3 might be --

4                   THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

5                   THE COURT: -- intimidated.

6                   THE WITNESS: Not her specifically, just  
7 somebody generally.

8                   THE COURT: That's why you accompanied her;  
9 right?

10                  THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

11                  THE COURT: She didn't say I'm intimidated  
12 and afraid?

13                  THE WITNESS: No.

14                  THE COURT: Okay.

15                  MR. CONWAY: Withdraw my objection.

16                  THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead.

17 BY MR. BOYNTON:

18                  Q. When you started down the hallway heading  
19 towards the clinic, what did you see in front of you,  
20 sir?

21                  A. Just -- I'd say, I don't know, 20, 25 people  
22 lined on each side of the hallway, not being violent but  
23 refusing to move.

24                  Q. Now, when you say lined on each side of the  
25 hallway -- and you're looking towards the door, was there

1 a clear route for you down to the door?

2 A. No.

3 Q. So can you describe a little bit more why  
4 that route wasn't clear for you?

5 A. Well, like I said, it wasn't a --  
6 necessarily a wide hallway. I have to use -- I can only  
7 use myself as an example, but for me to walk down that  
8 hallway, approaching myself, I would have to turn  
9 sideways just a little bit.

10 Q. Okay. As you turn down that hallway and you  
11 see what's in front of you, based on your training and  
12 experience, did you have any concerns?

13 A. I did not for me, no.

14 Q. And why did you not have any concerns for  
15 yourself?

16 A. They had not proven themselves to be violent  
17 towards us at that point.

18 Q. Okay. At that point what action did you  
19 take?

20 A. I walked down the hallway and I asked the  
21 people to move out of the way. And I just kept  
22 proceeding. They -- at some point they decided they  
23 didn't want to move, so I put my hands together --

24 MR. CONWAY: Your Honor, object. He's using  
25 the word they. If he knows who.

1 THE WITNESS: The group.

2 THE COURT: Did you know the names of any  
3 people at this point?

4 THE WITNESS: No.

5 THE COURT: All right. So continue.

6 | Overruled.

7 MR. BOYNTON: Thank you, Your Honor.

8 BY MR. BOYNTON:

9 Q. So you described coming down the hallway.  
10 You were instructing people who were in front of you to  
11 move to the side; is that right?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Did they say anything back to you?

14                   A.        As best I can recall, somebody said, we  
15 can't do that.

16 Q. Did that statement concern you as a law  
17 enforcement officer based on your training and  
18 experience?

19 A. Not me. Not for me, no.

20 Q. Did it suggest to you what was -- what you  
21 were going to need to do to get to the end of the  
22 hallway?

23           A.       It was -- if they had refused beyond what  
24 they did, we were going to have to start arresting  
25 people.

1           Q.     And do you recall anyone saying anything to  
2 the woman you were escorting down the hall?

3           A.     I do not.

4           Q.     Now, you've testified that no one assaulted  
5 you and you weren't concerned about being assaulted. As  
6 you got closer to the door to the office, did you have  
7 any concerns about what you were continuing to face in  
8 that hallway?

9           A.     The only concern that I had as I was walking  
10 down the hallway, some people did step -- I don't know  
11 who they were. They did step in the way and I gently  
12 moved them out of the way. And I got to the door of the  
13 clinic and there was a woman, I don't remember her name  
14 at all, but she was in -- for lack of actually knowing  
15 what this device is called, I'm going to call it a  
16 wheelchair because I don't know its specific name. But  
17 she was sitting in front of the door.

18           Q.     I want to back up a second. You said that  
19 you had to gently -- people stepped in front of your way  
20 and you had to gently move them?

21           A.     Yes.

22           Q.     Can you talk a little bit more -- did they  
23 step right in front of you? Describe for the jury what  
24 you saw happen in front of you.

25           A.     Some people did step in front of me, not in

1 an aggressive, violent way, just in a  
2 we're-blocking-your-way kind of method.

3 Q. Okay. And at that point could you get past  
4 those people without placing hands on them?

5 A. No.

6 Q. And what did you do in response to that?

7 A. I put my hands together out in front of me,  
8 and then I moved them out to the side so that I could  
9 create space to get down the hallway.

10 Q. What happened when you did that, sir?

11 A. They moved.

12 Q. Okay. After those -- you placed your hands  
13 on those people, you then described seeing more people in  
14 front of the doorway, is that right, and that's where  
15 you're talking about the woman in the wheelchair?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Approximately how many people were then in  
18 front of the door after you moved those two out of the  
19 way?

20 A. I would say two to four. I remember her  
21 specifically. I don't remember many others. I'm sure  
22 there were some in the periphery, but I was -- had my  
23 attention focused on the woman in the wheelchair.

24 Q. After you moved those two people out of the  
25 way, did the rest of the people in front of you move for

1 you?

2 A. More or less. There was not a whole lot of  
3 resistance, even when they stepped in the way. When I  
4 moved them, they didn't offer any resistance to prevent  
5 that from happening.

6 Q. Okay. So but what I'm getting at is at the  
7 door itself. So you've moved those two people out of the  
8 way and -- to get closer to the door. Did everyone just  
9 move away from the door at that point or was there still  
10 another group of folks in front of the door?

11 A. I apologize. I misunderstood.

12 Q. No.

13 A. They would not move from in front of the  
14 door.

15 Q. And that included the woman in the  
16 wheelchair?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. All right. At that point based on your  
19 training and experience, what did you feel you were going  
20 to need to do?

21 A. As politely and as gently as I could, I was  
22 prepared to move the woman in the wheelchair. I was  
23 going to wheel her out of the way.

24 Q. Why did you feel like you needed to do that?

25 A. Because this woman had an appointment at the

1 clinic, and it was my obligation to make sure that she  
2 got to that appointment.

3 Q. As this was happening, do you recall here  
4 sitting here today the emotional state of the woman  
5 behind you that you were escorting down the hallway?

6 A. I know she seemed, from the sound of her  
7 voice, that she was overwhelmed and no longer wanted to  
8 be there.

9 Q. Okay. Did she say anything?

10 MR. CONWAY: Objection, hearsay.

11 MR. BOYNTON: Your Honor, it would be --

12 THE COURT: Is it offered for the truth of  
13 the statement?

14 MR. BOYNTON: Your Honor, we'd offer it as  
15 an excited utterance and a present sense impression.

16 THE COURT: Overruled.

17 THE WITNESS: I -- specific words, I don't  
18 remember exactly. The feeling I got from what she --  
19 from what she said was that she was overwhelmed and she  
20 was not going to stay and wanted to leave.

21 BY MR. BOYNTON:

22 Q. What, if anything, did she do at that point?

23 A. She turned around and left right -- the way  
24 she came out.

25 Q. At that point did you have any reason to try

1 to get into the clinic?

2 A. No.

3 Q. So there was no reason to move the woman in  
4 the wheelchair or the other -- other individuals out of  
5 the way; is that right?

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. Okay. I'd like to pass up to you what's  
8 been marked for identification purposes as Government's  
9 Exhibit 3I and Government's Exhibit 16.

10 Do you recognize these two things in front  
11 of you?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. And what is Government's Exhibit 3I?

14 A. Oh, there it is, sorry. It is a video disk.

15 Q. Okay. And you've seen this video before?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. And how do you know that you've seen  
18 that video before?

19 A. I signed it and put the date on it.

20 Q. And what is Government's Exhibit 16, sir?

21 A. It's the -- it's a different disk, but one  
22 that I also signed and dated.

23 Q. Okay. And it's a disk of what?

24 A. It's a video disk of the incident -- both of  
25 these are video disks of the incident that happened that

1 day.

2 Q. Now, are these clips from police body worn  
3 cameras?

4 A. Not to my -- no, they're not.

5 Q. Do you know who recorded them?

6 A. I do not know who recorded them.

7 Q. But do these clips depict any events that  
8 you just described?

9 A. Yes.

10 MR. BOYNTON: Your Honor, we'd move to admit  
11 Government's Exhibit 3I and Government's Exhibit 16.

12 THE COURT: Any objection?

13 MR. CONWAY: No objection.

14 THE COURT: Received.

15 (Government Exhibits Nos. 3I and 16 were  
16 admitted.)

17 MR. BOYNTON: Ms. Andrews, can we play  
18 Exhibit 3I --

19 I'm sorry, may I publish to the jury?

20 THE COURT: Yes.

21 MR. BOYNTON: Thank you.

22 THE COURT: 3I as in India?

23 THE COURT: 3I, yes.

24 MR. BOYNTON: And then Exhibit 16.

25 THE COURT: Oh, 16, I'm sorry. I thought

1 you said 6T.

4 THE COURT: Yeah. Well, we just need to  
5 tell the jurors to just be very gentle. If you move the  
6 screen, be very gentle with it. It is on an arm and you  
7 can move it, but if you can look at it without moving it,  
8 we might not have any technical difficulties.

9 MR. BOYNTON: Your Honor, may the jurors  
10 follow along in their transcript books?

11 THE COURT: Yeah. What are the transcripts?

12 MR. BOYNTON: The transcripts are 31 and for  
13 16.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Are you going to do 3I  
15 first?

16 MR. BOYNTON: Yes, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Well, 31 is the recording. And  
18 what is the transcript? I just have a page in here.

19 MR. BOYNTON: I apologize. Court's  
20 indulgence, Your Honor.

21 MS. KLOPF: I understand there should be a  
22 tab on the side that says 31.

23 THE COURT: 3I says a recording clip 9 disk,  
24 that is all that's under 3I. There's no transcript under  
25 3I.

1                   MS. KLOPF: You may not have a transcript  
2 binder, Your Honor. I think you're looking at the  
3 exhibit binder.

4                   THE COURT: Yes, I am.

5                   MS. KLOPF: Yes. There's a separate  
6 transcript binder.

7                   THE COURT: Well, where's the transcript?

8                   MS. KLOPF: Let me see. Your Honor, I  
9 think, unfortunately we have one too few binders today.  
10 We'll make sure this evening that we get one for you as  
11 well.

12                  THE COURT: Well, do they have a transcript?

13                  MS. KLOPF: Yes, Your Honor. The jurors  
14 each have a transcript binder.

15                  THE COURT: Do they have two binders?

16                  MS. KLOPF: No, they only have a transcript  
17 binder. You have an exhibit binder.

18                  THE COURT: Oh, okay.

19                  MS. KLOPF: They do not have an exhibit  
20 binder.

21                  THE COURT: That's my confusion. Do you see  
22 a transcript that says 3I?

23                  JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

24                  THE COURT: Wonderful. You're the ones that  
25 need to see it. Go ahead.

1 MR. BOYNTON: Thank you.

2 BY MR. BOYNTON:

3 Q. (Playing video.)

4 Sergeant Schneider, I just want to orient us  
5 quickly to what we see in the video. Did you see  
6 yourself there?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. And you were the lead law enforcement  
9 officer in that video that we just watched?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And the patient that -- or the woman  
12 that you were leading down the hallway that I asked you  
13 about before, did you see her in that video?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. And can you just describe for the  
16 jury where she was?

17 A. She was behind -- I'd say probably about  
18 three or four feet behind me from what I could tell.

19 Q. Okay. Now, Sergeant, you said before you  
20 were not concerned for yourself in going down the  
21 hallway; is that right?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. But you -- you were escorting the patient  
24 down the hallway?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And did you have any concerns for the  
2 patient?

3                   A.        There's always concerns for the patient or  
4       any civilian in a crowd that could potentially be hostile  
5       towards them.

6 Q. You just didn't know; is that fair to say?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Ms. Andrews, can we play Exhibit 16.

9 (Playing video.)

13           A.       If I had to guess, I'd say between 25 and  
14       35. Everyone that was available minus the officers that  
15       were off duty.

16 Q. And you testified earlier that when you  
17 eventually made arrests, it was approximately two and a  
18 half hours after you got there; is that right?

19 A. Roughly, yes.

20 Q. So approximately how many hours were  
21 officers tied up that day?

22                   A.        Total time, if you factor in the beginning  
23 of the call, all the way up to getting done at the jail,  
24 with the arrests and whatnot. I'd say probably six.

Q. How's the department handling emergency

1 calls during that time period?

2 A. We called in --

3 THE COURT: Excuse me?

4 MR. CONWAY: Objection, relevance.

5 THE COURT: Stand for an objection.

6 MR. CONWAY: I'm sorry. Objection,  
7 relevance.

8 THE COURT: What's the question?

9 MR. BOYNTON: Your Honor, the question was  
10 how was the department handling other emergency calls on  
11 that day, given the number of officers he had testified  
12 to that were tied up at the medical pavilion.

13 THE COURT: Is there a relevance to that?

14 MR. BOYNTON: Your Honor, I think it  
15 highlights the time that was involved with addressing the  
16 issue that happened at the Providence pavilion, the  
17 number of officers that they needed there for that reason  
18 and the issue that they were facing there.

19 THE COURT: Sustained.

20 BY MR. BOYNTON:

21 Q. Now, you testified earlier about a woman in  
22 a wheelchair who was immediately in front of the doors of  
23 the clinic as you walked down the hallway. Do you recall  
24 that?

25 A. Yes.

1           Q.     And do you recall whether she was an  
2 individual who was arrested that day?

3           A.     Yes, she was. I remember.

4           Q.     Okay. And did you see any part of that  
5 arrest?

6           A.     Yes, I did.

7           Q.     And can you tell the jury what you saw?

8           A.     Well, she was escorted in her chair to the  
9 elevator and to the back door of the pavilion where a  
10 patrol car was pulled up under the awning. Her -- she  
11 got out of her wheelchair and stepped up into the police  
12 vehicle. We didn't have to carry her or pick her up or  
13 anything. And then we folded the wheelchair up and  
14 transported it with us.

15           Q.     What was your reaction to that?

16           A.     I didn't know why she needed the wheelchair.

17           MR. BOYNTON: Thank you, Your Honor. No  
18 further questions.

19           THE COURT: All right. Cross?

20                           **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

21 BY MR. CONWAY:

22           Q.     What is your proper title now? I don't want  
23 to call you the wrong thing. I know you were a sergeant,  
24 but I didn't catch it at the beginning.

25           A.     I'm now a corporal. It's one step below.

1           Q.     And I wasn't sure if we were going to see  
2 the videos with you, but now that you've seen the videos,  
3 were you able to identify the people that you had to put  
4 your hands on as defendants over here?

5           A.     I remember -- I remember from the videos  
6 having seen them there, yes.

7           Q.     Right. I mean, would you agree with me that  
8 if a picture speaks a thousand words, a video speaks a  
9 lot more as far as accuracy?

10          A.     Yes.

11          Q.     Okay. I mean, would you agree that a video  
12 is going to be more accurate than someone's memory three  
13 years later?

14          A.     That's a reasonable assumption to make.

15          Q.     Okay. And so you've been a police officer  
16 for 20-plus years; right?

17          A.     Yes.

18          Q.     At that point in time I think you had talked  
19 about that you were a supervisor, a sergeant. Prior to  
20 becoming a sergeant, what other roles had you had before  
21 becoming a sergeant?

22          A.     At Mt. Juliet or altogether?

23          Q.     Just in general.

24          A.     I've been a field training officer, corporal  
25 on patrol. Of course a patrol sergeant. I was on

1 special operations at La Vergne. Been a detective.

2 Q. So a little bit of everything?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Now, you were first interviewed by federal  
5 agents about this case in March 2022; is that correct?  
6 Or about a year later. I'm not going to marry you to a  
7 date.

8 A. I don't remember exactly when.

9 Q. Roughly a year later?

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. And now do you remember at the beginning of  
12 that interview they kind of went over what the FACE Act  
13 was and so on and so forth and the purposes of the  
14 interview? Did you know what the FACE Act was at that  
15 point in time? I'll change my question.

16 A. Not at that point in time, no.

17 Q. After that interview, you kind of said, oh,  
18 okay, now I know what the FACE Act is; right? You were  
19 informed of that and learned of it?

20 MR. BOYNTON: Objection, relevance.

21 THE COURT: What's the relevance?

22 MR. CONWAY: I'll move on, Judge.

23 BY MR. CONWAY:

24 Q. You were not arresting these people for FACE  
25 Act. You were arresting them for trespass violations at

1 that point in time; correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. And I'm not sure what the jury's  
4 education is, but state and county police jurisdiction is  
5 different than federal jurisdiction; correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. I'm going to go ahead and move on, I  
8 want to speed through this. On this particular date you  
9 had planned to attend a training with other police  
10 officers; correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. And then you and the other officers  
13 got a call to respond to this carafem clinic; correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And all of y'all -- did y'all leave together  
16 to go to the clinic?

17 A. We all left in our individual patrol  
18 vehicles.

19 Q. Okay. By the time you arrived at the  
20 clinic, there were several other police officers already  
21 there; correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Would some of those be patrol  
24 officers or more first responders?

25 A. Most of them, yes.

1           Q.     And can you just tell the jury about what a  
2 patrol officer or first responder would be? Or what some  
3 of their duties would be?

4           A.     The patrol officer or first responder?

5           Q.     Patrol officer.

6           A.     Okay. Patrol officer's duty is to  
7 obviously, you know, to drive around, patrol  
8 neighborhoods, ensure the safety of the citizens of  
9 Mt. Juliet, make traffic stops, arrests, write reports.

10          Q.     Kind of as it sounds. They're on the  
11 street; right?

12          A.     Yes.

13          Q.     Okay. So it makes sense that they would be  
14 at the clinic first; right?

15          A.     Yes.

16          Q.     Okay. Does Mt. Juliet require patrol  
17 officers to wear body cams?

18          A.     We do.

19          Q.     And what is a body cam? They might not  
20 know.

21          A.     A body cam is just a recording device that  
22 is on the officer's person that records -- different  
23 agencies have them set up different ways, but ours we can  
24 activate either remotely or when the lights, the  
25 emergency lights are turned on.

1           Q.     Okay.  And it would be a requirement going  
2 to the scene to have your body cam turned on for these  
3 patrol officers; right?

4           A.     Correct.

5           Q.     Okay.  Now, I know there wasn't official  
6 briefing before you arrived, but you were kind of  
7 apprized of the events that were going on, were you not?

8           A.     Yes.

9           Q.     So you knew it was a large group of  
10 nonviolent protestors; right?

11          A.     Initially or after I got there?

12          Q.     Like initially.

13          A.     Initially I just heard it was a protest.  I  
14 did not know what kind.

15          Q.     Didn't you specifically not get your riot  
16 gear or anything like that because you didn't think it  
17 was violent?

18          A.     Well, riot gear is not the -- unless we have  
19 an actual riot, that's not the first thing we're going to  
20 pull out of the car.

21          Q.     Okay.  So how about when you got there?  Did  
22 you find out that it was a nonviolent protest?

23          A.     Yes, when I got up there, up to the second  
24 floor, yes.

25          Q.     Okay.  Now, when you got to the second

1 floor, what were all of the people in the hallway doing?

2 A. Mainly -- sorry. Mainly standing in the  
3 hallway that led directly down to the carafem clinic.  
4 Standing there, sometimes they would sing hymns or --  
5 sorry, they would sing, I'm not sure exactly what they  
6 were singing. And talking to each other.

7 Q. Okay. And they were praying; right?

8 A. I'm not going to speculate as to what they  
9 were saying.

10 Q. A video would be a more accurate  
11 recollection than your memory; would you agree with me on  
12 that?

13 A. Yeah, that's fine. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay. I believe the initial plan was to  
15 kind of, how do we handle all of these protestors; right?  
16 Weren't you and the other officers discussing that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And, you know, there's a lot of manpower to  
19 arrest all of these people for simple trespass; would you  
20 agree with that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And the plan was kind of drawn out for  
23 several hours because there were multiple officers  
24 talking to some of the protestors?

25 A. I'm not exactly sure why it was drawn out.

1 I just know that it was.

2 Q. Did you ever see any of the other officers  
3 like Watkins, Bancroft or the Chief Hambrick speaking  
4 with any of the protestors?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Now, were they trying to negotiate a  
7 diplomatic outcome to not make all these arrests?

8 A. I can only assume so. I was not involved in  
9 those conversations.

10 Q. Did you observe any of the group speaking to  
11 the Chief and Watkins away from the rest of the group?  
12 Any specific members of the group?

13 A. I remember only one.

14 Q. Can you describe what he looked like?

15 A. It's an older gentleman, white hair.  
16 Probably -- he was wearing a gray sweatshirt in the video  
17 that we saw earlier. Mustache.

18 Q. Okay. And you weren't privy to that  
19 conversation?

20 A. No.

21 Q. And if we had a video of it, probably be way  
22 more accurate than your memory; right?

23 A. Yeah. Even if I was standing present, I  
24 wasn't paying attention to that.

25 Q. Okay. Now, you know we saw that the patient

1 come up the elevator. At what point in time did you make  
2 the decision to walk down the hallway with her?

3 A. When I was told to.

4 Q. Do you remember who directed you to do that?

5 A. I do not. I just remember I was closest and  
6 I was the one elected to do it.

7 Q. All right. And we saw the video, and would  
8 you agree with me that most of the people were getting  
9 out of the way voluntarily until you ran across the man  
10 that was bigger and the woman that you had to put your  
11 hands on?

12 A. Well, for me, yes.

13 Q. So do you remember any particular defendants  
14 offering any physical resistance to you?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Now, would you agree with me that as you  
17 moved down the hallway that your safety concerns were  
18 lowered as they kind of peacefully spread, as you said,  
19 part the seas?

20 A. My safety concerns were never that high to  
21 begin with, but I wasn't concerned about my safety.

22 Q. Okay. Now, I did hear you say on direct  
23 that you didn't know if the group would be hostile  
24 towards somebody they didn't like. Did they ever become  
25 hostile?

1           A.     Not physically.

2           Q.     Did you arrest anybody for assault that day?

3           A.     No.

4           Q.     Did you arrest any of this group for  
5 harassment?

6           A.     No.

7           Q.     Okay. And the jury may not know, you can be  
8 arrested for the apprehension of assault; correct? In  
9 Tennessee? Just by fear of assault?

10          A.     Oh, that.

11          Q.     The B misdemeanor. Answer out loud.

12          A.     You're referring to, like, assault by  
13 intimidation?

14          Q.     Yes.

15          A.     Yes.

16          Q.     Nobody was arrested for that by Mt. Juliet  
17 Police Department; correct?

18          A.     No.

19                    MR. BOYNTON: Your Honor, I object to this  
20 line of questioning.

21                    THE COURT: Overruled.

22 BY MR. CONWAY:

23          Q.     We saw the video of getting to the door, so  
24 I'm going to move on to that.

25                    Would it be fair to say that, in your

1       opinion, the situation was pretty unpleasant for this  
2       patient?

3 A. You're asking for my opinion?

4 Q. Your opinion, yes.

5           A.     Yes, I would say that she was not -- she was  
6 not well received being there and it was extremely  
7 uncomfortable for her to be there.

8 Q. At the beginning of my questioning, Officer,  
9 I didn't tell you that I represented Ms. Heather Idoni.  
10 And I'm not sure if you can see her. If -- Ms. Idoni, if  
11 you can possibly stand up.

12 Do you remember having any interaction with  
13 her whatsoever?

14 A. NO.

15 Q. Okay. Could you tell us from your memory  
16 where she was in that hallway at all?

17 A. I have no idea.

18 Q. Okay. Kind of once again, go to the video?  
19 Be more accurate?

A. That's fine with me. If you have to.

21 Q. Okay. You've been interviewed by the  
22 federal authorities multiple times as it relates to this  
23 case; correct?

24 A. Once, maybe twice.

25 O. Once in 2022, once in 2024? Does that sound

1 about right, at the end of last year, December, maybe?

2 A. I don't remember that far back for --

3 Q. December of 2024, last month?

4 A. No. I've got two kids, a wife and barely  
5 get any sleep.

6 Q. Gotcha.

7 MR. CONWAY: That's all the questions I  
8 have. There may be some other questions by other defense  
9 counsel.

10 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

11 BY MR. RUSS:

12 Q. Corporal Schneider, I'm Ben Russ. I  
13 appreciate you've been here all day and I'll try not to  
14 be repetitive. I kind of want to focus on the video a  
15 little bit, but I also wanted to ask you, you said on  
16 your direct testimony that you had concern for people in  
17 situations like this, not for yourself. I think you made  
18 that pretty clear, but just when there was a lot of  
19 people around and there are civilians. That was a  
20 general concern on your opinion; is that fair to say?

21 A. Yes. What I was describing was a general  
22 sense of someone, a person trying to walk down a crowded  
23 hall in that type of situation.

24 Q. Exactly. So not -- not this particular  
25 person. You were just -- you're concerned in those kind

1 of situations, but there was nothing that the people in  
2 the hallway were doing that was increasing your concern  
3 for her safety?

4 A. Not overtly, no.

5 Q. Okay. I wanted to ask you specific  
6 questions about the video. And obviously it's not very  
7 long what we watched. I think you said it better than I  
8 did. You moved them, but they were compliant I think was  
9 maybe the way you put it. You did have to lay hands on  
10 two of the people, but they didn't resist you; right?

11 A. Yes. I mean, I guess my definition of lay  
12 hands is a little different than yours, but yes.

13 Q. I appreciate that. You had to have a  
14 physical interaction with them. I wasn't trying to say  
15 they moved out of your way without you having to do  
16 anything, but as you say, you didn't have to be  
17 aggressive with them or anything?

18 A. Okay, yes.

19 Q. As we saw, the young lady was following you  
20 and you said she was three or four steps behind. They  
21 weren't preventing her from going down the hallway to  
22 follow you; right?

23 A. They did not get in her way. They did not  
24 assault her with me in front of her, no.

25 Q. And as you said, you approached the door.

1 And once you got up to the door, you were telling them  
2 they needed to move; right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And she's behind you and pretty quickly, I'd  
5 say within about 10 seconds, she decides, this isn't the  
6 right day, I'll just come back a different day; right?

7 A. That's what I heard, yes.

8 Q. She never got to the door? Of the clinic, I  
9 mean.

10 A. I guess -- I don't know if that's semantics  
11 talking about getting to the door. I don't know if her  
12 getting to the door is the same as me being in front of  
13 her trying to move someone out of the way right in front  
14 of the door.

15 Q. Right. I wasn't suggesting that she had to  
16 leapfrog you or something like that, but the two of you  
17 were together approaching the door?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And you got up to the door and you were  
20 instructing them that they're going to have to move;  
21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. But -- and you were saying, I think, that  
24 the woman in the wheelchair, if she wasn't going to do  
25 that voluntarily, you were going to wheel her out of the

1 way; right?

2 A. I was going to move her, yes.

3 Q. But it never got to that point?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. But you personally didn't try to open the  
6 door to the clinic?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And the young lady who you were with, as you  
9 said, you were guiding her through this and she made the  
10 decision on her own that, even though you were helping  
11 her, she wasn't going to wait and see. She just left.

12 A. Yes, she turned around and left, yes.

13 Q. So you can't really speculate whether they  
14 would have gotten out of your way like the other people  
15 or whether you would have had to move them or what would  
16 have happened. We just don't know; right?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. That was the only person that you assisted  
19 trying to do that the whole time that you were at the  
20 building that day; correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And you're not aware of any other patients  
23 that needed that kind of help while you were there?

24 A. So far as I know, she was the only one.

25 Q. And I think you already said that, just so I

1 cover it, they didn't make any threats towards this woman  
2 while you were accompanying her down the hallway?

3 A. Not that I heard.

4 MR. RUSS: Those are the questions I have  
5 for him, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Okay. Who wants to go next?

7 MR. CRAMPTON: We're all out of order here,  
8 Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

11 BY MR. CRAMPTON:

12 Q. Hi, Corporal Schneider, my name is Steve  
13 Crampton. I'm here representing defendant Paul Vaughn  
14 over here.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. You don't recall Mr. Vaughn from the day you  
17 were out there at the carafem clinic, do you?

18 A. I can't see him, so I don't know who he is.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Vaughn, would you stand up.

20 (Complies.)

21 THE WITNESS: No, I don't.

22 BY MR. CRAMPTON:

23 Q. Now, if I heard you correctly in response to  
24 a question from the government a few minutes ago, you  
25 indicated that the problem arose there because the

1 protestors had been requested to leave by the property  
2 owner. Did you say that?

3 A. That was my understanding, yes.

4 Q. That was your understanding?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You yourself didn't encounter the property  
7 owner that day, did you?

8 A. I never spoke to the property owner, no.

9 Q. Did you see the property owner that day?

10 A. I didn't.

11 Q. Okay. So with regard to this incident, as I  
12 count them and I believe my colleague asked you this, you  
13 have given at least three different statements. One on  
14 the day of when you arrested the juveniles, you remember  
15 filling out an incident record?

16 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

17 Q. Is that a yes?

18 A. Yes, I had to fill out incident reports for  
19 that. Sorry.

20 Q. In that incident report, you indicated, did  
21 you not, that MJPD officers requested the protestors  
22 disperse, but the protestors refused. You didn't mention  
23 the property owner, did you?

24 A. Not in the report, no.

25 Q. Okay. Was that just an oversight?

1           A.     No, the property owner asked us to have them  
2 leave.  We tell them to leave.  That's all that needs to  
3 happen.

4           Q.     As we sit here today, you don't know that  
5 the property owner made that request on this day?

6           A.     But the property owner doesn't have to make  
7 the request if we show up because of a call at that  
8 business, and that's why we were called there because of  
9 the protest.  We asked them to leave, they don't leave,  
10 that becomes the violation.  That's where the problem  
11 exists.

12          Q.     So if I'm following you, some tenant in the  
13 building, in this case in the carafem clinic --

14            MR. BOYNTON:  Your Honor, just object on the  
15 basis of relevance.  We're trying a FACE violation here.

16            MR. CRAMPTON:  Your Honor, if I may, two  
17 points.

18            THE COURT:  Well, you can impeach him --

19            MR. CRAMPTON:  That's what I'm doing.

20            THE COURT:  -- but I'm not sure you're on  
21 the right track, but go ahead.

22            MR. CRAMPTON:  And likewise the dispersement  
23 order.

24            THE COURT:  He did not say someone from the  
25 carafem clinic called.

1 MR. CRAMPTON: No, now he's saying  
2 somebody --

3 BY MR. CRAMPTON:

4 Q. Was it someone from carefem that called, do  
5 you know?

6           A.     It could have been the Vanderbilt clinic, it  
7 could have been the business downstairs. I have no idea  
8 who called. I was in training. I know we got the call.

9 Q. Thank you, all right.

10 And is it fair to say, sir, that in your  
11 third 302 report regarding this incident, you never  
12 mentioned the property owner --

13 A. I'm sorry, my what?

14 Q. Your third written statement or interview by  
15 the FBI you never mentioned that a property owner had  
16 given an order to disperse, did you?

17           A.       Again, the property owner doesn't have to.  
18    We got that information at some point. I don't know  
19    when. I just -- I do know that, like I said, we got the  
20    call for the protest. We showed up, we asked them to  
21    leave, they didn't leave.

22 Q. Simple question. You testified today for  
23 the first time that the property owner had requested this  
24 dispersement?

25 MR. BOYNTON: Your Honor, objection. I

1 think that mischaracterizes the officer's testimony  
2 earlier in his direct examination.

3 THE COURT: The jury will remember what he  
4 said. Move on to something else.

5 MR. CRAMPTON: Okay.

6 BY MR. CRAMPTON:

7 Q. Now, you also indicated in one of your  
8 reports, didn't you, sir, that there was -- due to the  
9 number of protestors I think you called them there, there  
10 were like logistical issues; correct? My cocounsel  
11 mentioned some of them. Making mass of arrests requires  
12 a lot of police; right?

13 A. Yup, it does.

14 Q. Likewise in this incident, weren't the  
15 negotiators called out? I think you mentioned they were  
16 present; correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And isn't it also true that the EMS was also  
19 called out at some point on this occasion; right?

20 A. I would assume so. I have no idea. I was  
21 inside.

22 Q. Fair enough. Are there not also issues --  
23 you mentioned the woman in the wheelchair. That required  
24 some special accommodation, doesn't it?

25 A. Yes.

1           Q.     And similarly, if you're making mass  
2 arrests, it requires a certain number of officers with  
3 either handcuffs or zip ties or something to effectuate  
4 the arrest, doesn't it?

5           A.     Yes.

6           Q.     In other words, there's a process involved,  
7 isn't there?

8           A.     Correct.

9           Q.     And that takes time; fair?

10          A.     Yes.

11          Q.     In your experience, in your many years as a  
12 police officer, are you familiar with a formal protocol  
13 involved in incidents like this that would apply?

14          A.     I've worked for smaller agencies. We  
15 haven't really -- we haven't come upon these type of  
16 events very often.

17          Q.     Sure, okay.

18                   I believe you indicated you weren't involved  
19 in any of the negotiations themselves?

20          A.     No.

21          Q.     Okay. So as you sit here today, you can't  
22 really tell us definitively whether the resolution of the  
23 incident was timely or not, can you?

24          A.     No, I have no idea.

25                   MR. CRAMPTON: Fair enough. Thank you.

1 That's all I have.

2 THE COURT: Who else wants to cross?

3 MR. THORNTON: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Okay. We'd like to finish this  
5 witness today. It's 12 minutes to 5:00.

6 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

7 BY MR. THORNTON:

8 Q. Officer Schneider, I'm Steve Thornton. I  
9 represent the defendant Coleman Boyd. I would like to  
10 get a sense of the sequence of events if I could. So I  
11 understand that you were at the police station and you  
12 received a call. You were on a training day; is that  
13 right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And then you traveled from the police  
16 station to the carafem clinic building?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. And you called that the Providence pavilion  
19 building?

20 A. I can't remember the exact name of it. But  
21 I know -- I think it's like 5000 or 5002 Crossing Circle.  
22 But I know exactly where it is.

23 Q. That's close enough for my purposes. When  
24 you arrived what did you see? Did you see people  
25 outside?

1           A.     Yes, there was people outside and there were  
2 a lot of -- there were several police cars, police  
3 vehicles there. And we were directed to go up to the  
4 second floor. I knew where the clinic was after having  
5 been there before.

6           Q.     Having been there before, in your experience  
7 on your time of service for the Mt. Juliet Police  
8 Department, had you seen people protesting or rallying or  
9 pro-lifers out in front of that building before?

10          A.     Yes.

11          Q.     When you arrived that day, this looked --  
12 those people outside looked like those prior experiences,  
13 did they?

14          A.     Not that day. That was a different group --  
15 I don't know if it was a different group of people, but  
16 they weren't acting in the same manner yes.

17          Q.     Do you mean the people outside weren't  
18 acting in the same manner?

19          A.     Yes.

20          Q.     So before you get inside, you arrive, you  
21 see people outside. They were acting how differently?

22          A.     Well, the -- I guess up to that point the  
23 protests had taken place on the sidewalk in front of the  
24 building -- in front of the property, the public  
25 sidewalk. Crossing Circle's right in front of the

1 business. We had, on occasion, had to tell them not to  
2 be in the road. So we came to an agreement that they  
3 would stay on the sidewalk and exercise their First  
4 Amendment rights, and we would make sure that they got to  
5 do that.

6 Q. So when you got there that day, your  
7 understanding was these folks were out there exercising  
8 their First Amendment rights, and there was no problem  
9 with that; correct?

10 A. No.

11 Q. No, it's not correct or it is correct?

12 A. No. If you're referring to the people  
13 outside, that's not the reason we got called.

14 Q. No, that's not my question. Your impression  
15 when you first arrived on the scene, you saw these people  
16 outside. It's your understanding that they were out  
17 there exercising their First Amendment rights?

18 A. No. I bypassed them all together and paid  
19 them no mind because that's not where the call was.

20 Q. Okay. Then you proceeded inside the  
21 building; correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did you take the elevator or the stairs  
24 upstairs?

25 A. I do not remember.

1           Q.     Okay. Your first recollection, you get off  
2 the elevator at the stairs, you see people in the hall?

3           A.     Yes.

4           Q.     Okay. You did not see the defendant Coleman  
5 Boyd anytime when you're there?

6           A.     Which one?

7                   THE COURT: Stand up so he sees who you are.

8                   (Complies.)

9                   THE WITNESS: Okay.

10          BY MR. THORNTON:

11          Q.     You didn't see him there, did you?

12          A.     I don't remember.

13          Q.     Okay. You've been asked a question or two  
14 about your interview statements with the FBI. And was it  
15 your impression, your assessment of the woman behind you  
16 that she was overwhelmed and shocked to see law  
17 enforcement officers in the building?

18          A.     I don't know if she was shocked to see law  
19 enforcement in the building or not. I can only assume  
20 she was.

21          Q.     You assume that. And that's what you said  
22 to the FBI in your interview; correct?

23          A.     Not in the way that you're stating, no.

24          Q.     Let me ask you if you remember these words.

25                   MR. BOYNTON: Your Honor, this is improper

1 impeachment.

2 THE COURT: Overruled.

3 BY MR. THORNTON:

4 Q. These may not be your words, but let me ask  
5 them if they were your words. The woman was overwhelmed  
6 and shocked to see law enforcement officers once the  
7 elevator doors opened. Were those your words?

8 A. I don't remember. What are you talking  
9 about exactly?

10 Q. I'm asking you your assessment of the woman  
11 that you're escorting down the hall.

12 A. Oh, my assessment. You're not asking me  
13 what I said.

14 Q. Well, there are two things. I'm asking you  
15 about your assessment of the woman you're escorting down  
16 the hall. And then did you say to the FBI that it was  
17 your assessment that she was overwhelmed and shocked to  
18 see law enforcement officers once the elevator doors  
19 opened? If you remember.

20 A. I don't remember exactly what I told the FBI  
21 previously. That's been over a year ago.

22 Q. Fair. Now, I think I'm like you -- someone  
23 said laying hands on folks. In your definition of laying  
24 hands on folks, you didn't lay hands on anybody, did you?

25 A. No, not in -- not in my definition, no.

1 Q. You just parted the seas?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And they were gentle and moved out of the  
4 way I believe you said?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. In terms of the lady in the  
7 wheelchair, you've known older people who have had to use  
8 a wheelchair that can't walk very far or stand very long?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. So it wouldn't be unusual to have an  
11 older person who uses a wheelchair but she gets in your  
12 police car without the wheelchair's assistance?

13 A. It seems reasonable.

14 MR. THORNTON: That's all I have,  
15 Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: All right. Anybody else?

17 MR. PARRIS: No questions.

18 MS. BELL: I just have a few, Your Honor.  
19 They will be quick.

20 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

21 BY MS. BELL:

22 Q. Good afternoon, Officer.

23 A. Good afternoon.

24 Q. You had said that you saw a gentleman from  
25 the group of protestors speaking with police; is that

1 correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And on older gentleman; is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you see that gentleman in the courtroom  
6 at all?

7 A. I do. I can actually see him.

8 Q. Can you identify him, please?

9 A. Well, he's standing.

10 THE COURT: Where's he standing?

11 THE WITNESS: He's standing right now.

12 BY MS. BELL:

13 Q. What was your impression or what -- strike  
14 that.

15 THE COURT: Do you want the record to  
16 reflect that he identified your client?

17 MS. BELL: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.

18 THE COURT: The record will reflect he  
19 identified Mr. Gallagher.

20 BY MS. BELL:

21 Q. Do you recall what you told the FBI about  
22 that gentleman?

23 A. I do not.

24 Q. Did you think -- let me ask you this. Did  
25 you think he was one of the leaders of the group because

1 he was talking with police?

2 A. I want to say that he identified himself as  
3 one of the leaders of the group at some point.

4 Q. And didn't you also tell the FBI that he  
5 identified himself as former law enforcement?

6 A. I do not remember.

7 Q. If the FBI interview report says one of the  
8 leaders purported to be a former law enforcement  
9 officer --

10 A. If that's what you have, that's what I'll  
11 have to go with, but it's been over a year.

12 MS. BELL: Fair enough. Those are all my  
13 questions.

14 THE COURT: Anybody else?

15 Any redirect?

16 MR. BOYNTON: Yes, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: All right.

18 **REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

19 BY MR. BOYNTON:

20 Q. You were asked a number of questions on  
21 cross-examination about nonviolent protest and being  
22 asked about what you characterized as putting hands on  
23 somebody. Do you recall those questions?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I want to talk a little bit about your

1 training as a law enforcement officer. Do you know  
2 whether or not you have a use of force policy at  
3 Mt. Juliet PD?

4 A. We do.

5 Q. Can you talk a little bit about the -- is it  
6 a -- is it a wheel or is it a force continuum? What type  
7 of policy is it?

8 A. It's a reasonableness standard that the  
9 FBI -- or that the Supreme Court adopted. We kind of use  
10 that to guide because we used to use the force continuum,  
11 but the force continuum kind of confines you to one level  
12 of force above the force that's being used against you.  
13 And situations evolve too rapidly for that to be  
14 reasonable.

15 Q. Let me ask you this. Based on your training  
16 and experience as an officer, what is the foundation  
17 level of coercion that a police officer uses at the scene  
18 that an officer responds to?

19 A. Officer presence.

20 Q. Okay. And what do you mean by officer  
21 presence?

22 A. Merely showing up with the authority that  
23 the City of Mt. Juliet and the State of Tennessee have  
24 bestowed on me as a police officer.

25 Q. That's the lowest level because most people

1 will comply with officer presence; is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And that's the level above that?

4 A. It's verbal.

5 Q. And what do you mean by verbal?

6 A. Well, it's just -- establishing verbally  
7 that I'm a police officer, these are the things that I  
8 would like you to do. And if -- more forcefully put,  
9 that I need you to do or you have to do.

10 Q. That's just using oral orders; right?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And what's the level above that?

13 A. The level above that would be, like, soft,  
14 empty-hand control, which is just essentially maybe grab  
15 somebody or push them -- you know, push or move them out  
16 of the way, whether that be gently or up to a point it  
17 becomes hard empty hand when you start using punches and  
18 kicks and elbows and things like that.

19 Q. So I want to take you back to March 5, 2021,  
20 and put you back in that hallway. You were asked a  
21 number of questions about going down that hallway and  
22 what you needed to do to get down that hallway?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you talk about in the terms that we just  
25 discussed, your levels of force based on your training

1 and experience as an officer, was your command presence  
2 enough to get folks to move out of your way?

3 A. No, it was not.

4 Q. Okay. Were oral commands, your verbal  
5 commands enough for individuals to get out of your way?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. Okay. And what did you -- what level of  
8 force did you need to use, then, to clear people from  
9 your way?

10 A. I apologize. The soft, empty-hand control.

11 Q. You were asked a number of questions about  
12 whether you knew certain defendants up here. Your  
13 involvement that day based on your testimony and -- when  
14 I was first asking you questions was that you were  
15 involved in arresting four juveniles; is that right?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. So were you involved in arresting any of the  
18 adults?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Okay. You were present for some of it, but  
21 that wasn't your focus; is that fair to say?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Do you personally know anybody who was there  
24 that day other than the officers?

25 A. I do not.

1           Q.     You were asked questions about mass arrests  
2 and whether or not the amount of time that was expended  
3 that day by the Mt. Juliet Police Department was I  
4 guess -- kind of consistent with this mass arrest, the  
5 planning involved, the number of handcuffs that would be  
6 involved, flex cuffs.  How many individuals ultimately  
7 were arrested, if you can recall?

8           A.     I know that it was the -- of course, the  
9 four juveniles were given summons, and I know of four --  
10 well, two adults, possibly four.

11          Q.     Okay.

12          A.     Because I think at least one of the parents  
13 of the juveniles were arrested.  Yeah, sorry, that's it.

14          Q.     Okay.  So at the time -- you testified  
15 earlier that the arrest of the juveniles didn't involve  
16 any handcuffs, right, because it was just a summons?

17          A.     Correct.

18          Q.     Now, at the time you were a patrol sergeant;  
19 right?

20          A.     Yes.

21          Q.     And you supervised a shift of officers?

22          A.     Yes.

23          Q.     Okay.  Based on your training and experience  
24 as an officer, if you had been the senior officer on  
25 scene, what would you have done to address that issue

1 upon first arriving on the scene?

2           A.     Upon first arriving on scene determined  
3 whether or not it was violent or peaceful gathering or  
4 protest. And find out the validity of them being there.  
5 If they did not have any, then try to get them to leave  
6 as peacefully as possible. If that broke down and they  
7 refused to leave, decide when and how we were going to  
8 make arrests.

9           Q.     Given the number of individuals that  
10 ultimately needed to be arrested based on your  
11 recollection, how quickly would you have estimated that  
12 would have taken you as a patrol shift sergeant at the  
13 time?

14           MR. PARRIS: Objection, relevance.

15           THE COURT: Overruled.

16           THE WITNESS: Continue?

17 BY MR. BOYNTON:

18           Q.     Yes.

19           A.     Several hours because, I mean, you're  
20 talking -- if -- and that's looking at the crowd and  
21 assuming that everybody's going to jail. You're looking  
22 at an hour, hour and a half per person to process.

23           Q.     Okay. When you said looking at the crowd  
24 and assuming everyone was going to go to jail, you  
25 didn't -- taking you back to reality, you didn't know

1       whether or not everybody who was in that crowd was going  
2       to go to jail that day; is that right?

3           A.     No, I had no -- I assumed everybody was  
4       going because none of them were willing to leave.

5           MR. BOYNTON:   Court's indulgence,  
6       Your Honor.

7       BY MR. BOYNTON:

8           Q.     You mentioned a moment ago assessing whether  
9       it was a peaceful nonviolent protest.  It's your  
10      testimony, right, that it was nonviolent; is that  
11      correct?

12          A.     Yes, correct.

13          Q.     When you talk about peacefulness as a police  
14      officer, what do you mean by peaceful?

15          A.     Not violent.

16          Q.     Okay.  And so based on your training and  
17      experience, are there things that are nonviolent that are  
18      nonetheless disruptive?

19          A.     Yes.

20          Q.     And nonetheless require police response?

21          A.     Yes.

22          Q.     And nonetheless require police intervention?

23          A.     Yes.

24           MR. BOYNTON:   Thank you, Your Honor.  No  
25      more questions.

1                   THE COURT: Any additional cross?

2                   All right, you may step down. Thank you.

3                   **\*\*\*\*\*WITNESS EXCUSED\*\*\*\*\***

4                   THE COURT: All right. Members of the jury,  
5 I want to reinforce three of my instructions. Do not  
6 talk about this case with anyone or amongst yourselves.  
7 Ignore any news coverage on any media. Turn it off right  
8 away. And do not do any investigation on your own by  
9 Internet or any other means about anyone or anything  
10 connected to the case. We'll see you back at 9:00 in the  
11 morning.

12                   Everyone in the courtroom will remain seated  
13 while the jury has access to the elevators. You may  
14 leave first. Leave your notes and your notebooks on your  
15 chairs. And we'll see you back in the morning at  
16 9 o'clock.

17                   (Whereupon, at 5:04 p.m. the jury retired  
18 from open court.)

19                   THE COURT: Will you radio us when they are  
20 all on the elevators.

21                   Okay. You can be seated. We'll wait a few  
22 minutes here.

23                   You want to give us the next few witnesses,  
24 Counsel?

25                   MS. KLOPF: Yes, Your Honor. We're

1 anticipating tomorrow calling Sarah Flowers, Caroline  
2 Davis, and then actually hopefully the remaining  
3 witnesses; although, at this point I think that's a  
4 little bit questionable --

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 MS. KLOPF: -- if we can get through them,  
7 but --

8 THE COURT: But they're all available.

9 MS. KLOPF: They're all available.

10 Aspirationally we will get through everyone tomorrow.  
11 Given how long the cross was today, I think maybe we  
12 underestimated how long crosses would take. I do think  
13 at this point there is a solid chance we'll go into  
14 Friday morning, but aspirationally we're calling the  
15 remainder of the witnesses tomorrow.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Very good.

17 MR. PARRIS: Any particular order?

18 MS. KLOPF: We're starting with Sarah  
19 Flowers and then we will follow with Caroline Davis.  
20 They will take up a big chunk of time. And then after  
21 that I believe it will be Courtney Forbis, Cassie Speck,  
22 Officer Kamer -- I'm sorry, Melissa Ashby, Wood and then  
23 Nicko Ashby.

24 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

25 MR. PARRIS: Is there an instruction on

1 what -- I'd like to get this thumb drive with all the  
2 confidential questionnaire information out of my hands.  
3 Is there something --

4 THE COURT: You would like to get it where?

5 MR. PARRIS: Out of my hands.

6 THE COURT: Out of your hands. Well, I  
7 think you could give it to Ms. Beasley. She'd probably  
8 love to have it to put in a drawer.

9 MS. KLOPF: Can the record reflect the  
10 United States is also returning ours?

11 THE COURT: Does everybody want to turn in  
12 their questionnaires? They do have a lot of confidential  
13 information on them. We may as well gather them up as  
14 we.... We're keeping track.

15 Is the jury safely in the elevator?

16 COURT SECURITY OFFICER: Yes, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: All right. We'll let these  
18 people go first. People from the government on this  
19 side, you may exit.

20 Okay, everybody may leave now. We are in  
21 adjournment.

22 (Whereupon, at 5:07 p.m. these were all of  
23 the proceedings had in the above-captioned cause on the  
24 above-captioned date.)

25

**REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE PAGE**

I, Roxann Harkins, Official Court Reporter for the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, in Nashville, do hereby certify:

That I reported on the stenotype shorthand machine the proceedings held in open court on January 24, 2024, in the matter of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA v. CHESTER GALLAGHER, ET AL., Case No. 3:22-cr-327; that said proceedings were reduced to typewritten form by me; and that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcript of said proceedings.

This is the 12th day of March, 2024.

s/ Roxann Harkins\_\_\_\_  
ROXANN HARKINS, RPR, CRR  
Official Court Reporter